



## Nation bids goodbye to Bush with high praise, cannons, humor

**Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The nation bid goodbye to George H.W. Bush with high praise, cannon salutes and gentle humor Wednesday, celebrating the life of the Texan who embraced a lifetime of service in Washington and was the last president to fight for the U.S. in wartime. Three former presidents looked on at Washington National Cathedral as a fourth —

George W. Bush — eulogized his dad as "the brightest of a thousand points of light." After three days of remembrance in the capital city, the Air Force plane with Bush's casket left for a final service in Houston and burial Thursday at his family plot on the presidential library grounds at Texas A&M University in College Station.

Continued on Next Page



Former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush, top left, watch as the casket of former President George H.W. Bush is carried out after a State Funeral at the National Cathedral in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018.

Associated Press

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## GOODBYE

**Continued from Previous Page**

His final resting place is alongside Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years, and Robin Bush, the daughter who died of leukemia at age 3. His plane, which often serves as Air Force One, arrived at Ellington Field outside Houston in late afternoon.

The national funeral service at the cathedral was a tribute to a president, a patriarch and a faded political era that prized military service and public responsibility. It was laced with indirect comparisons to President Donald Trump but was not consumed by them, as speakers focused on Bush's public life and character — with plenty of cracks about his goofy side, too.

Trump sat with his wife, a trio of ex-presidents and their wives, several of the group sharp critics of his presidency and one of them, Hillary Clinton, his 2016 Democratic foe. Apart from courteous nods and some handshakes, there was little interaction between Trump and the others.

George W. Bush broke down briefly at the end of his eulogy while invoking the daughter his parents lost in 1953 and his mother, who died in April. He said he took comfort in knowing "Dad is hugging Robin and holding Mom's hand again."

The family occupied the White House for a dozen years — the 41st president defeated after one term, the 43rd serving two. Jeb Bush stepped up to try to extend that run but fell short when Trump won the 2016 Republican primaries. The elder Bush was "the last great-soldier statesman," historian Jon Meacham said in his eulogy, "our shield" in dangerous times. But he took a lighter tone, too, noting that Bush, campaigning in a crowd in a



The flag-draped casket of former President George H.W. Bush is carried by a military honor guard past former President George W. Bush, President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump, former President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, former President Bill Clinton, and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, at the conclusion of a State Funeral at the National Cathedral, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, in Washington. In the second row are Vice President Mike Pence, and his wife Karen Pence, former Vice President Dan Quayle, and his wife Marilyn Quayle and former Vice President Dick Cheney.

department store, once shook hands with a mannequin. Rather than flushing in embarrassment, he simply quipped, "Never know. Gotta ask."

Meacham recounted how comedian Dana Carvey once said the key to doing an impersonation of Bush was "Mr. Rogers trying to be John Wayne."

None of that would be a surprise to Bush. Meacham had read his eulogy to him, said Bush spokesman Jim McGrath, and Bush responded to it with the crack: "That's a lot about me, Jon."

The congregation at the cathedral, filled with foreign leaders and diplomats, Americans of high office and others touched by Bush's life, rose for the arrival of the casket, accompanied by clergy of faiths from around the world. In their row together, Trump and former Presidents Barack Obama, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton stood with their

spouses and all placed their hands over their hearts.

Alan Simpson, former Republican senator from Wyoming, regaled the congregation with stories from his years as Bush's friend in Washington. More seriously, he recalled that when he went through a rough patch in the political game, Bush conspicuously stood by him against the advice of aides. "You would have wanted him on your side," he said.

Simpson said Bush "loved a good joke — the richer the better. And he threw his head back and gave that great laugh, but he never, ever could remember a punchline. And I mean never."

George W. Bush turned the humor back on the acerbic ex-senator, saying of the late president: "He placed great value on a good joke, so he chose Simpson to speak."

Meacham praised Bush's call to volunteerism, plac-

ing his "1,000 points of light" alongside Abraham Lincoln's call to honor "the better angels of our nature" in the American rhetorical canon. Meacham called those lines "companion verses in America's national hymn."

Trump had mocked "1,000 points of light" last summer at a rally, saying "What the hell is that? Has anyone ever figured that one out? And it was put out by a Republican, wasn't it?"

Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney praised Bush as a strong world leader who helped oversee the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union and helped bring about the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, signed into law by his successor, Clinton.

With Trump, a bitter NAFTA critic, seated in the front row, Mulroney hailed the "largest and richest free

trade area in the history of the world." The three countries have agreed on a revised trade agreement pushed by Trump.

Earlier, a military band played "Hail to the Chief" as Bush's casket was carried down the steps of the U.S. Capitol, where he had lain in state. Family members looked on as servicemen fired off a cannon salute.

His hearse was then driven in a motorcade to the cathedral ceremony, slowing in front of the White House, the route lined with people much of the way, bundled in winter hats and taking photos.

Waiting for his arrival inside, Trump shook hands with Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama, who greeted him by saying "Good morning." Trump did not shake hands with Bill and Hillary Clinton, who looked straight ahead.

Bill Clinton and Mrs. Obama smiled and chatted as music played. Carter was seated silently next to Hillary Clinton in the cavernous cathedral. Obama cracked up laughing at someone's quip. Vice President Mike Pence shook Carter's hand.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that the day marked "a celebration for a great man who has led a long and distinguished life." Bush's death makes Carter, also 94 but more than 100 days younger, the oldest living ex-president.

Following the cathedral service, the hearse and its long motorcade drove to the National Mall to pass by the World War II Memorial, a nod to the late president's service as a World War II Navy pilot, then transferred his remains at Joint Base Andrews for the flight home to Texas with members of his family.

Bush will lie in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church before his burial Thursday. □



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# Residents head back into California town leveled by wildfire

By **DON THOMPSON** and  
**OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ**

**Associated Press**

**PARADISE, Calif. (AP)** — Joyce and Jerry McLean sifted through twisted metal and broken glass Wednesday on the property where their mobile home once stood, hoping to find precious family possessions that might have survived the devastating California wildfire that leveled Paradise.

They were among hundreds of residents who were finally allowed back into neighborhoods on the east side of town a month after the blaze killed at least 85 people and destroyed about 14,000 homes. The couple, wearing white hazmat suits and leather gloves, searched for his gold wedding band, a Bible that belonged to his great-grandmother and Christmas ornaments made by their son when he was a boy.

"We didn't own expensive things, but we had a lot of memory things," said Joyce McLean, 73. "If I can find a little piece of his family or just a little piece of my son, I would be happy."

Earlier in the day, a long line of cars waited in a cold drizzle at a checkpoint to enter areas where evacuation orders had been lifted. Crews in yellow slickers were still clearing debris from burned homes and removing trees from streets littered with melted plastic trash cans and hollowed vehicles on tireless rims.

Some residents have been allowed back into nearby communities in the fire zone, but Wednesday marked the first time resi-

dents of Paradise got a firsthand look at what was left of their town of 27,000 people that was hit the hardest by the blaze.

More than 50,000 people in Paradise and the neighboring communities of Magalia and Concow were forced to quickly flee the towering, wind-driven flames that charred 240 square miles (622 square kilometers).

Authorities said 11 people were still unaccounted for in what was the deadliest U.S. wildfire in at least a century.

Joyce McLean said she had seen photos on social media of her burned home and knew one of the only things that survived was an American flag flying on a pole.

"We lost everything but the clothes on our backs," she said about their harrowing dash for safety.

In their search Wednesday, they found tools that belonged to Jerry McLean's father and a set of souvenir spoons that belonged to Joyce McLean's mother, but there was no sign of the precious items they had hoped to find.

"I don't think we're going to find the Bible, not much chance," said Jerry McLean, 72.

Joyce McLean said the thought of returning after the fire had made her nervous and emotional, but she wanted to at least recover the flag.

"I think something was telling us to be there," she said about the images she saw on social media. "The only thing that was standing was the flagpole, with the flag still flying, and our wel-

come sign with our name and address."

Rebecca Rogers of Chico came to support her friend, Jennifer Christensen, who lost her Paradise home in the fire.

Rogers believes she found the remains of Christensen's cat, Marble, under what used to be her friend's bed. Rogers was in tears when she approached the McLeans to ask for a bag to gather the remains.

"I don't want her to look. It's just too much," Rogers sobbed before burying the remains in the front yard of her friend's home. "I've got to be strong; I've got to do this for her." □



Joyce McLean, wearing a hazmat suit, looks through the remains of her home Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, in Paradise Calif.  
Associated Press

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## Michigan GOP moves to strip Democratic officeholders' power

By DAVID EGGERT  
Associated Press

**LANSING, Mich. (AP)** — Republicans who control Michigan's Legislature voted Wednesday to advance a measure that strips campaign-finance oversight power from the Democratic secretary of state-elect, and they moved to give lawmakers authority to stand up for GOP-backed laws if they think the incoming Democratic governor and attorney general are not adequately defending the state's interests. The lame-duck moves followed within hours of similar efforts in Wisconsin, where lawmakers voted earlier Wednesday to shift clout to the Republican-controlled Legislature and weaken the Democrat replacing the GOP governor.

Michigan Democrats in January will jointly hold the governor, attorney general and secretary offices for the first time in 28 years, but the Legislature will continue to be controlled by Republicans.

A day after GOP lawmakers finalized an unprecedented maneuver to gut minimum wage and paid sick leave laws, a Senate panel passed legislation that would create the Fair Political Practices Commission to enforce the campaign-finance law rather than Secretary of State-elect Jocelyn Benson, who ran in part on a pledge to advocate for election transparency.

Democrats called the bill, which could clear the full Senate on Thursday, a blatant power grab that would fly in the face of voters. Republican Gov. Rick Snyder has not taken a position on the measure or others.

"At no point did voters say they wanted the rules manipulated. At no point did



Sister Kathleen Nolan, a member of the Adrian Dominican Sisters in Adrian, Mich., speaks out against Senate Bill 1171, or Michigan's One Fair Wage proposal, on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018, on the steps of the Michigan state Capitol in Lansing, Mich.

Associated Press

they say they wanted bills rushed through a hasty lame-duck session," said Patrick Schuh, state director for the liberal group America Votes. He questioned the timing, saying such a commission was not proposed until a Democrat is on the verge of leading the secretary of state office for the first time in two-dozen years.

Republicans defended the legislation, saying the six-member panel of three Democrats and three Republicans would initially be appointed by Democratic Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer. Eric Doster, a former long-time lawyer for the state GOP, testified that the commission would operate similarly to those in other states and said "now the time is right."

Other critics of the bill, however, contended that the commission would be inef-

fectual, saying its members would deadlock and be accountable to political parties that would submit a list of possible appointees to the governor.

Also Wednesday, the House voted 58-50 for legislation that would empower the Legislature, House or Senate to intervene in any suit at any stage, a right already granted to the attorney general. A bill that won Senate approval on a 25-12 vote over Democrats' objections would influence how Benson implements a new voter-approved constitutional amendment that establishes an independent redistricting commission to draw congressional and legislative maps instead of the partisan Legislature.

The former measure is seen as a maneuver to ensure that Republicans could support laws if Democratic Gov.-elect Gretchen Whit-

mer and Democratic Attorney General-elect Nessel are lukewarm about GOP-passed measures and drop appeals in cases the state loses. Nessel, for example, has said she probably will not defend a law allowing faith-based groups to refuse to serve same-sex couples who want to adopt children. There could also be cases where legislators want to take the same side as the attorney general but make a different legal argument.

Republicans disputed criticism that the legislation would undermine the role of the attorney general. The sponsor, Rep. Rob VerHeulen of Walker, said it would simply let the Legislature intervene without the court approval that it currently needs, regardless of which party is in power.

"We're seeing more and more public policy issues

being addressed in the courts, rather than solely in the legislative branch," he said. "This is an institutional bill designed to ensure that the legislative branch has a voice."

Democrats countered that the legislation is an unconstitutional overreach.

"The Legislature makes the laws, the executive branch enforces the laws and the judicial branch interprets the laws," said Rep. Robert Wittenberg of Huntington Woods. "Let's be clear: This legislation would have never been introduced, much less put on the agenda, had we seen different results in the top-of-the-ticket elections less than a month ago."

Democrats also criticized the bill that would prescribe how Benson randomly selects the four Democrats, four Republicans and five independents to sit on the redistricting panel. They said the anti-gerrymandering ballot initiative approved last month is self-executing, and the legislation is unconstitutional and is not supported by organizers of the ballot drive nor people who voted for it.

"The incoming secretary of state was elected to preside over election matters," said Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich of Flint. "She's perfectly capable of figuring out who is a Democrat and who is a Republican without the help of this lame-duck Legislature."

Yet the GOP sponsor, Sen. Phil Pavlov of St. Clair, said the legislation would not in "any way" affect Proposal 2 but rather follow its goal of partisan "evenness and equity" by restricting people affiliated with a political party from providing legal and accounting services to the commission. □



# Supreme Court takes up closely watched double jeopardy case

By MARK SHERMAN

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Constitution says you can't be tried twice for the same offense. And yet Terance Gamble is sitting in prison today because he was prosecuted separately by Alabama and the federal government for having a gun after an earlier robbery conviction.

The Supreme Court is considering Gamble's case on Thursday, and the outcome could have a spillover effect on the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

At issue is whether to overturn a court-created exception to the Constitution's double-jeopardy bar that allows state and federal prosecutions for the same crime. The court's ruling could be relevant if President Donald Trump were to pardon someone implicated in special counsel Robert Mueller's probe and a state wanted to pursue its own charges against that person.

Supreme Court lawyer Tom Goldstein joked at a Washington event before the term began in October that the high court case should be called *New York v. Manafort*, a reference to former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort. Trump has refused to rule out an eventual pardon for Manafort, who has been convicted of federal financial fraud and conspiracy crimes. It's by no means certain that the high court

ruling will affect future prosecutions.

But Trump's Justice Department is urging the court not to depart from what it says is an unbroken line of cases reaching back nearly 170 years in favor of allowing prosecutions by state and federal authorities. Thirty-six states that include Republican-led Texas and Democratic-led New York are on the administration's side, as are advocates for Native American women who worry that a decision for Gamble would make it harder to prosecute domestic and sexual violence crimes.

Civil rights scholars at Howard University adopt a sort of middle ground that urges the court to at least preserve the federal government's ability to lead civil rights prosecutions against people who have been acquitted of state charges. Civil rights charges to fight crimes of racial violence have been a key tool for federal prosecutors, especially when Southern juries were unwilling to convict defendants. The most recent example the scholars cited is the successful federal prosecution of Los Angeles police officers who had been acquitted of state charges in the beating of Rodney King.

On the other side, liberal and conservative groups say that the huge growth in federal criminal prosecutions in recent decades makes it urgent for the



In this Oct. 5, 2018, file photo, the U. S. Supreme Court building stands quietly before dawn in Washington. The Constitution says you can't be tried twice for the same offense.

Associated Press

court to rein in successive prosecutions for the same crime.

Reinforcing the seemingly odd alliances in play on this issue is that the unlikely high court duo of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Clarence Thomas first suggested in 2016 that the topic "bears fresh examination in an appropriate case."

At least four justices — the minimum required to hear arguments — felt Gamble's situation is that appropriate case.

There is no dispute that Gamble's arrest in 2015 for possessing a 9 millimeter handgun led to state and federal charges. He pleaded guilty in state court and tried to have the federal charge dismissed. When

that failed, he pleaded guilty in federal court as well, with the idea of mounting the constitutional challenge that is now before the Supreme Court.

Gamble is not scheduled for release from prison until 2020, nearly three years later than he would have been freed from conviction on state charges alone, his lawyer, Louis Chaiten, wrote in court papers.

The relevant portion of the Constitution's Fifth Amendment says that no person shall "be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb."

Chaiten said the language is clearly on Gamble's side. "The text of the Double Jeopardy Clause contem-

plates no exceptions to its blanket guarantee of protection from double prosecution and punishment for the same offense," Chaiten wrote.

The administration countered that the American legal system has long viewed violations of state and federal law as separate offenses, even if they result from the same conduct. The court should not "invite the serious practical consequences of categorically precluding politically accountable officials from ever determining that a separate prosecution is warranted — which would hamstring state, tribal and federal law enforcement," Deputy Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall wrote. □

## DHS: Coast Guard Academy retaliated against woman instructor

**NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP)**

— Officials at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy retaliated against a faculty member who had complained of harassment and bullying based on her gender and race, according to a report from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General released Tuesday.

The report says "a preponderance of the evidence" shows that the lieutenant commander at the New London, Connecticut

academy received a poor annual evaluation "after making discrimination and harassment complaints against her superiors."

The report also found that the Coast Guard failed to adequately respond to the woman's complaints, which were made in 2015 and 2016, and subjected her to additional harassment after she made her initial complaints.

The person's name was blacked out in the heavily redacted report. The sub-

jects of her complaints and those who handled them were also redacted.

The report concluded with several recommendations, including supplemental training for Coast Guard supervisors and managers on the agency's discrimination, harassment, and bullying policies.

It also ordered that the officer's evaluation be amended and said commanders should be required to document in writing the reasons for their

findings and outcomes in response to bullying and harassment complaints.

The academy did not immediately respond to multiple phone messages for comment left Wednesday. U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, both Democrats from Connecticut, said in a joint statement that the inspector general's report is troubling.

"The Inspector General's report is a damning indictment of the Coast Guard

Academy's handling of racial discrimination and harassment. ... We fully expect immediate, thorough and transparent steps to change this atmosphere of racial hostility and hold academy staff and officers accountable for their actions."

The academy is already the subject of a congressional investigation for harassment, bullying and discrimination against minority cadets. □



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## Sarah Palin's son checks into Alaska halfway house

By **RACHEL D'ORO**

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**

— The elder son of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin turned himself in to an Anchorage halfway house Wednesday to begin a year in custody, following his conviction for assaulting his father, an official said.

Track Palin was initially scheduled to enter the halfway house Oct. 31 after a judge decided new assault allegations disqualified him from a court program aimed at rehabilitating veterans and said he would have to serve time instead.

But the 29-year-old Army veteran won a delay after his lawyer said a bed at an Anchorage treatment hospital for veterans became available. He checked into the halfway house



In this Oct. 3, 2018, file photo, Track Palin, left, talks with his lawyer Patrick Bergt before a hearing in Anchorage, Alaska.

Associated Press

Wednesday morning, said Trey Watson of Geo Reentry of Alaska Inc., which operates the halfway house. Palin in December 2017 was accused of breaking into his parents' home and

leaving his father, Todd, bleeding from cuts on his head, authorities have said.

He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor criminal trespass in that case, after he was ini-

tially charged with felony burglary and misdemeanor counts of assault and criminal mischief.

Palin, who served a year in Iraq, has been accused of two other attacks on people close to him in recent years.

In September, Palin was arrested after a female acquaintance said he told her that she could not leave his house in Wasilla, took her phone and then hit her in the head, according to court documents.

The woman said they wrestled over the phone and that Palin let her leave after she screamed for help, according to an Alaska State Troopers affidavit. Troopers said Palin told them the two were arguing over how they said goodbye and that any injuries the woman

had were self-inflicted.

Palin faces misdemeanor charges including assault, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct in that case. Track Palin's plea arrangement called for him to serve 10 days in jail if he completed the therapeutic program and a year behind bars if he did not. Once Palin checks in to the halfway house, it's up to the Department of Corrections to determine if he will serve the time at the halfway house, on house arrest or in jail, according to Anchorage District Attorney Richard Allen.

Palin also was accused of punching his then-girlfriend in 2016. He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor possession of a firearm while intoxicated, and other charges were dismissed. □

## Fallin commutes sentences of 21 Oklahoma prisoners

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Gov. Mary Fallin on Tuesday commuted the sentences of 21 prison inmates convicted of various nonviolent offenses in an unusual move that underscores the Republican leader's push to reduce Oklahoma's prison population.

Fallin signed the commutations during an emotional ceremony at the state Capitol in which family and friends of the prisoners cheered every signature.

"As we prepare for this Christmas holiday season, let's not forget," Fallin said, pausing as her eyes filled with tears. "There is a God of second chances."

Only a small number of commutation requests typically reach the governor's office each year, and pardon and parole officials say only about 3 percent of requests are ultimately signed by the governor.

But this year, Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform, a bipartisan group of civic and business leaders, partnered with University of Tulsa law students for a commutation campaign that helped inmates prepare paperwork and coordinate for treatment, housing and job prospects upon their release. Each of the 21 offenders, mostly women convicted of drug

crimes, were sentenced to 10 or more years in prison for offenses that now carry only jail time or significantly reduced sentences.

Another group of about two dozen offenders are expected to reach Fallin's desk later this month.

Four children of 36-year-old Juanita Peralta, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison for drug possession, were among those excited about the release of their mother. "I was talking to my sister, and she asked: Is this really happening?" said Peralta's eldest daughter, 21-year-old Destiny Pinon of Ada. Pinon said she has been raising her siblings,

who range in age from 8 to 15, since their mother was incarcerated two years ago. Initially 22 offenders were selected for commutation, but one inmate was cited for misconduct before the requests were sent to the governor, said John Estus, chief of staff for Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform. Fallin's commutations shaved more than 340 years off the sentences of the 21 inmates.

Oklahoma's incarceration rate has been increasing for decades, and the state earlier this year surpassed Louisiana to earn the dubious distinction as having the highest incarceration

rate in the nation.

Although Fallin in recent years has pushed for changes to the state's criminal justice system, like more treatment and sentencing options for nonviolent offenders, many of her proposals have been resisted by the state's GOP-controlled Legislature and elected district attorneys. After years of inaction by the Legislature, a group of civic and business leaders led an effort two years ago to reduce the penalties for drug possession and low-level property crimes. Voters approved the plan in 2016 with nearly 60 percent of the vote. □





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# Border Patrol agent charged with capital murder in Texas

By JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press

**DALLAS (AP)** — A U.S. Border Patrol agent has been charged with capital murder after telling investigators he killed four sex workers whom he considered worthless and that he thought he was performing a service for his Texas border hometown, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

Webb County District Attorney Isidro Alaniz said he will seek the death penalty if Juan David Ortiz is found guilty in the September slayings.

"The scheme in this case, from Ortiz's own words, was to clean up the streets of Laredo by targeting this community of individuals who he perceived to be disposable, that no one would miss and that he did not give value to," Alaniz said at a news conference. Ortiz, 35, thought he was doing his civic service by killing the women, the pros-

ecutor said.

A suspect can be charged with capital murder if he is suspected in more than one killing in the same scheme with an overarching motive, Alaniz said. Three of the women were shot to death and one died of blunt force trauma.

"The evidence that was presented to the grand jury this morning showed that he killed these four innocent individuals in a cold, callous and calculating way," he said.

Alaniz said the horrific nature of the killings and Ortiz's vigilante mentality were factors in his decision to pursue the death penalty. Ortiz, who has been held in Webb County jail on a \$2.5 million bond since his Sept. 15 arrest in Laredo, presents a clear danger to society, he said.

The Border Patrol intel supervisor and Navy veteran seemed to be living a typical suburban life with

his wife and two children when the killings occurred. After the first slaying, Ortiz continued going to work as usual. He was only arrested after one victim was able to escape him and asked a state trooper for help.

"By day, he was a family man. The evidence shows that he was a supervisor, that he would go about his daily activities like anybody here. He appeared normal by all accounts and circumstances," Alaniz said.

"At the nighttime, he was somebody else — hunting the streets ... for this community of people and arbitrarily deciding who he was going to kill next."

Authorities have said Ortiz knew some of the victims and that he targeted them for their vulnerability. Melissa Ramirez, 29, was slain on Sept. 3, and 42-year-old Claudine Luera was killed on Sept. 13.

On Sept. 14, he picked up another woman, Erika



This file photo provided by the Webb County Sheriff's Office shows U.S. Border Patrol agent Juan David Ortiz.

Associated Press

Pena, who told investigators that Ortiz acted oddly when she brought up Ramirez's slaying and later pointed a gun at her in a gas station, according to court documents. Pena said Ortiz grabbed her shirt as she tried to get out of his truck, but she pulled it off and ran, finding a state trooper who was refueling his vehicle.

Ortiz fled and, he later told investigators, he then picked up and killed his last

two victims — 35-year-old Guiselda Alicia Cantu and 28-year-old Janelle Ortiz, a transgender woman whose birth name was Humberto Ortiz.

With Pena's help, authorities were able to track Ortiz to a hotel parking garage where he was arrested.

Ortiz was also charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and unlawful restraint in the attack on Pena, and evading arrest or detention. □

## Disneyland tower suggested as Legionnaires' disease source

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A cooling tower that provides mist to make Disneyland visitors comfortable was the likely source for 22 cases in a Legionnaires' disease outbreak last year near the theme park, a health official testified this week.

Most of those who got sick visited the park in the fall of 2017. Disneyland has denied it was the source, pointing to three infected people who had been in the city of Anaheim where Disneyland is located, but not at the park itself. One of them died. Dr. Matthew Zahn of the Orange County Health Care Agency gave

testimony Tuesday before an appeals board judge at the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which is investigating the case. Zahn said tests around the time of the outbreak showed high levels of Legionella bacteria in two Disneyland cooling towers, which are part of an air conditioning system that releases mist, the Los Angeles Times reported. He said contaminated droplets likely spread to people in the park and beyond. Disneyland is appealing state fines, saying the outbreak's source was not scientifically determined.



In this Jan. 22, 2015, file photo, visitors walk toward Sleeping Beauty's Castle in the background at Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

Upon questioning, Zahn said he could not be 100 percent certain that Disneyland was the source without additional testing.

The disease is caused by bacteria that can grow in man-made water systems. People can develop pneumonia after breathing in contaminated vapor.

A young girl who was diagnosed with Legionnaires' after visiting Disneyland last fall has filed a lawsuit against the theme park.

"The facts don't support these claims and the lawsuit has no merit," Disney spokeswoman Suzi Brown said Tuesday. □



# Macron scraps French fuel tax hike amid violent protests

By SYLVIE CORBET  
SAMUEL PETREQUIN  
ANGELA CHARLTON  
Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — French President Emmanuel Macron scrapped a fuel tax rise Wednesday amid fears of new violence, after weeks of nationwide protests and the worst rioting in Paris in decades.

Protesters celebrated the victory, but some said Macron's surrender came too late and is no longer enough to quell the mounting anger at the president, whom they consider out of touch with the problems of ordinary people.

Macron decided Wednesday to "get rid" of the tax planned for next year, an official in the president's office told The Associated Press. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe told lawmakers the tax is no longer included in the 2019 budget.

The decision has ramifications beyond France, since the fuel tax rise was part of Macron's efforts to wean France off fossil fuels in order to reduce greenhouse gases and help slow climate change. Its withdrawal is both a blow to broader efforts to fight climate change and a warning to other world leaders trying to do the same thing.

The "yellow vest" protests began Nov. 17 over the government plan to raise taxes on diesel and gasoline, but by the time Macron bowed to three weeks of violence and abandoned the new fuel tax, protesters were demanding much more. Many workers in France are angry over the combination of low wages, high taxes and high unemployment that have left many people struggling financially.

On Tuesday, the government agreed to suspend the fuel tax rise for six months. But instead of appeasing the protesters, it spurred other groups to join in, hoping for concessions of their own. The protests took on an even bigger dimension Wednesday with trade unions and farmers vowing to join the fray.



**A demonstrator wearing a yellow jacket reading "Macron give us the wealth tax" protests at the toll gates on a motorway at Biarritz southwestern France, Wednesday, Dec.5, 2018.**

Associated Press

Police warned of potential violence during demonstrations in Paris on Saturday, with one small security forces union threatening a strike.

So after nightfall Wednesday, as parliament debated the 2019 budget, Macron's government suddenly gave in.

"I have no problem with admitting that on such or such question we could have done differently, that if there is such a level of anger ... it's because we still have a lot of things to improve," the prime minister told legislators.

Philippe said "the tax is now abandoned" in the 2019 budget, and the government is "ready for dialogue." The budget can be renegotiated through the year, but given the scale of the recent protests, Macron is unlikely to revive the added fuel tax idea anytime soon.

Jacline Mouraud, one of the self-proclaimed spokespeople for the disparate yellow vest movement, told the AP that Macron's concession "comes much too late, unfortunately."

"It's on the right path, but in my opinion it will not fun-

damentally change the movement," she said.

Three weeks of protests have caused four deaths, injured hundreds and littered central Paris with burned cars and shattered windows.

The sweep of the protests and their wide support by citizens of all political stripes has shocked Macron's government. In the last few days, Paris saw the worst anti-government riot since 1968, French students set fires outside high schools to protest a new university application system, small business owners blocked roads to protest high taxes, and retirees marched to protest the president's perceived elitism.

Macron's popularity has slumped to a new low since the demonstrations began. The former investment banker, who has pushed pro-business economic reforms to make France more competitive globally, is accused of being the "president of the rich" and of being estranged from the working classes.

On Wednesday, France's largest farmers union said it will launch anti-government protests next week,

after trucking unions called for a rolling strike.

Trade unions so far have not played a role in the yellow vest protest movement but are now trying to capitalize on growing public anger. A joint statement from the CGT and the FO trucking unions called for action Sunday night to protest a cut in overtime rates. The FNSEA farmers union said it would fight to help French farmers earn a better income but would not officially be joining forces with the "yellow vests" — protesters wearing the high-visibility vests that motorists are required to keep in their cars.

French police have cleared most of the fuel depots that protesters blocked earlier in the week, but fuel shortages still hit parts of France on Wednesday, affecting hundreds of gas stations.

Demonstrators also blocked toll booths, letting drivers pass without paying, to press demands that ranged from higher incomes and pensions to the dissolution of the National Assembly, France's parliament. At Tolbiac University in downtown Paris, students took over a school build-

ing and classes were canceled.

"We need taxes, but they are not properly redistributed," protester Thomas Tricottet told BFM television.

The high school students' FIDL union called for "massive" protests Thursday and urged France's education minister to step down.

One student was injured during protests at a high school in Saint-Jean-de-Braye in north-central France. BFM said he was shot in the head with a rubber bullet. Julien Guillier, a spokesman for the regional school administration, told the AP that the student was expected to survive.

Until he scrapped the fuel tax rise, Macron's actions after returning from the G-20 summit in Argentina had done little to persuade protesters that he was listening to their concerns.

He has refrained from speaking publicly about the protests and has largely remained in his palace. On Tuesday night, he was jeered as he traveled to a regional government headquarters that was torched by protesters over the weekend.

One activist said Wednesday that he fears more deaths if Saturday's yellow vest demonstration in Paris goes ahead and urged Macron to speak out and calm the nation.

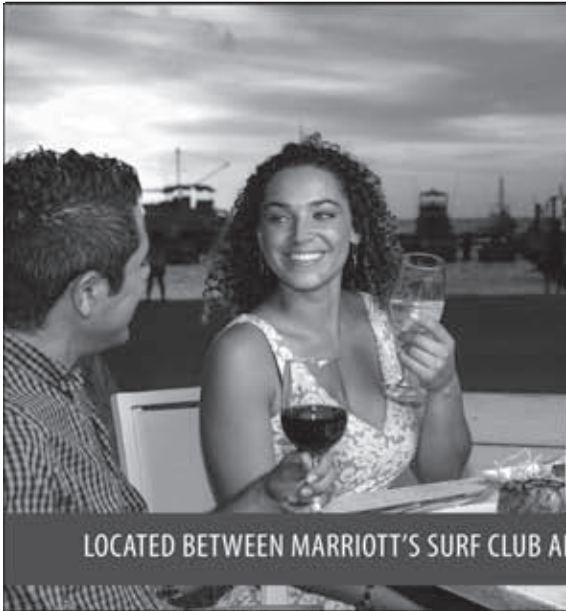
"If not there will be chaos," said Christophe Chalencon.

Chalencon, a 52-year-old blacksmith from southern France, told the AP the French public needs Macron to "admit he made a mistake, with simple words ... that touch the guts and heart of the French."

In a disparaging tweet, U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that Macron's decision Tuesday to delay the gas tax hike showed that the French leader doesn't believe in the 2015 Paris global climate accord.

The Trump tweet came as thousands of climate experts were meeting in Poland to work out national responsibilities in the fight to reduce emissions and slow global warming. □





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# Police arrest 84 in European crackdown on Italian mob

By MIKE CORDER,  
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands  
(AP) — In an investigation

that underscored an Italian crime syndicate's role as a leading player in international cocaine trafficking, police in four countries arrested at least 84 suspected mobsters Wednesday in a series of carefully coordinated raids.

Those detained allegedly work for the Italian 'ndrangheta criminal network that traffics in cocaine on a global scale.

"It's almost a cliché, but the operation carried out today confirms again the great danger of the 'ndrangheta, not just in drug trafficking, where it's the undisputed leader, but (also) in the financial sphere," said Francesco Ratta, a top police official in the southern Italian region of Calabria. "It's an evolved 'ndrangheta, that we can say knows no borders ... It's an 'ndrangheta that day by day changes its skin ... but still keeps ties" to its home base in Calabria.

European officials announced the arrests at the Hague headquarters of Eurojust, the European Union prosecutors agency



Masked police stand in an ice parlor in Duisburg, western Germany, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018 as authorities conduct coordinated raids in Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands in a crackdown on the Italian mafia.

Associated Press

set up to bolster the fight against cross-border crime in the 28-nation bloc. Eurojust and EU police agency Europol coordinated the raids.

"Today we send a clear message to organized crime groups across Europe," said Filippo Spiezia, vice president of Eurojust, the EU prosecution agency that coordinated the raids. "They are not the only ones able to operate across bor-

ders; so are Europe's judiciary and law enforcement communities."

As well as arresting dozens of suspected mobsters in Italy, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, police seized drugs and around 2 million euros (\$2.3 million). It was the second significant mob takedown in as many days. On Tuesday, Italian authorities said they had dismantled the rebuilt upper echelons of the Ma-

fia in the Sicilian capital of Palermo by arresting 46 people, including the man presumed to have taken over as provincial kingpin. Wednesday's raids were the culmination of a two-year investigation code-named Pollino against the powerful 'ndrangheta criminal group on allegations of cocaine trafficking, money laundering, bribery and violence, Eurojust said. The 'ndrangheta is Italy's

most powerful criminal organization, eclipsing by far Sicily's Cosa Nostra or the Naples area Camorra.

Eurojust said the massive probe was the biggest of its kind in Europe. About four tons of cocaine were traced during the investigation. Cocaine and ecstasy pills also were seized in Wednesday's raids.

Italian police hailed the close cooperation between European police forces and Eurojust's coordination, saying it was an important new crime-fighting tactic that allowed investigators in different countries to share information in real time.

But Italy's top Mafia prosecutor, Federico Cafiero De Raho, also sounded a note of caution, saying the raids only scratched the surface of the powerful 'ndrangheta, whose tentacles and illicit activities, including huge cocaine trafficking operations, were spread all over the world.

Speaking in The Hague, Cafiero de Raho said the arrests "are nothing for 'ndrangheta. There are thousands of people who should be arrested and billions of euros that should be seized." □

# UN hosts meeting of regional envoys over Western Sahara

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. secretary-general's envoy for Western Sahara is meeting with foreign ministers from Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania plus leaders of the Polisario Front over the

future of the Morocco-annexed territory.

U.N. envoy Horst Koehler, a former German president, hosted a "round-table" discussion among the attendees at the first U.N.-hosted talks on the territory in six

years, after meeting with them bilaterally earlier Wednesday.

The U.N. says the two-day meeting is a first step toward a renewed negotiations process aiming to "provide for the self-deter-

mination of the people of Western Sahara."

Morocco annexed the former Spanish colony in 1975 and fought the pro-independence Polisario Front until a U.N.-brokered cease-fire in 1991.

Morocco has proposed wide-ranging autonomy for Western Sahara, while the Polisario Front wants a referendum on the territory's future. □



## Serbian premier: Armed intervention in Kosovo an option

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC

Associated Press

**BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)** —

Serbia's prime minister warned on Wednesday that the formation of a Kosovo army could trigger Serbia's armed intervention in the former province — the bluntest warning so far amid escalating tensions in the Balkans.

Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic said that she hopes "we won't ever have to use our army, but unfortunately that is currently one of the options on the table."

Kosovo's parliament will vote Dec. 14 on transforming the country's security forces into a regular army. Serbian officials allege the army would be used to chase the Serb minority out of Kosovo — a claim repeatedly denied by Kosovo officials. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday issued a warning on Kosovo's intention to transition into army. "Such a move is ill-timed. It



In this photo taken Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic speaks during a press conference in Belgrade, Serbia.

Associated Press

goes against the advice of many NATO allies and may have serious repercussions for Kosovo's future Euro-Atlantic integration," he said.

Russia, which is close ally of Serbia, called Kosovo's planned move "another destabilizing and provocative step."

"The Kosovo authorities' move to form their own 'army' ... may lead to the most severe consequences not only for the region's Ser-

bian population but also for the security of the entire Balkans," a Russian Foreign Ministry statement said.

Brnabic said Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leadership should "come to their senses," warning: "We cannot stand aside and watch in silence while someone is conducting new ethnic cleansing" of Serbs in the Balkans. Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Hardinaj said Wednesday that it's "a pure lie" that the intentions of a new Kosovo army would be to occupy northern Kosovo where a majority of Serbs live.

"The army is not for the north. Our army is for Afghanistan and Iraq, to help those countries" in peace-keeping missions, he said, according to Kosovapress news agency. Kosovo declared independence in 2008. Serbia and its allies Russia and China don't recognize Kosovo as a country, while the United States and most of the West do. □

## Some Africans are studying their way out of prison

By DESMOND TIRO

JOSPAT KASIRE

Associated Press

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** —

Morris Kaberia was on Kenya's death row and feeling suicidal when he came across a program that eventually set him free.

The former police officer had been imprisoned for violent robbery, and his protests that he had been framed went unanswered. Then he heard about the African Prisons Project, which is turning even illiterate prisoners into their own legal advocates in countries where such assistance is desperately rare.

In September, the 47-year-old was released after representing himself in court. He is now pursuing a law degree from the University of London. "Joining the program is actually the thing which gave me my life back," he said. "I saw that there is a possibility of thinking big ... that the walls cannot limit me."

Eight hundred prisoners



In this photo taken Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018, prisoner Gibson Makini, 40, center, who aids his fellow inmates in writing legal documents, stands with them in Naivasha Prison in Kenya.

Associated Press

have been freed this year alone as of October, project spokeswoman Peggy Nyahera said.

The project in Kenya and neighboring Uganda was founded in 2007 by then-British law student Alex-

ander McLean, who was volunteering in Uganda when he witnessed the sorry state of inmates. Many are illiterate and poor, with little resources to represent themselves.

Under the project, inmates

who need it are mastering basic literacy and then encouraged to study law. Project staffers and inmates role-play in mock court situations while law students act as judges.

"Last examination we did

in May, we had a distinction from this prison. We had somebody who had a 72 pass mark grade, which is a distinction under the grading of the University of London," said Hamisi Mzari, a legal aid officer with the project who works with inmates at Kenya's Kamiti Maximum Prison.

The experience can transform inmates and change how others treat them, Mzari said. "People are now seeing that the people whom we took into prison, whom we had considered that they are the litter and the garbage of society, they are now coming out as polished gold."

The prisoner with the high score in May, 45-year-old George Karaba, had been charged with murder and sentenced to death. He says he had lost hope. Now he's applying for a presidential pardon and has become a trustee, with a leadership role among his peers. □



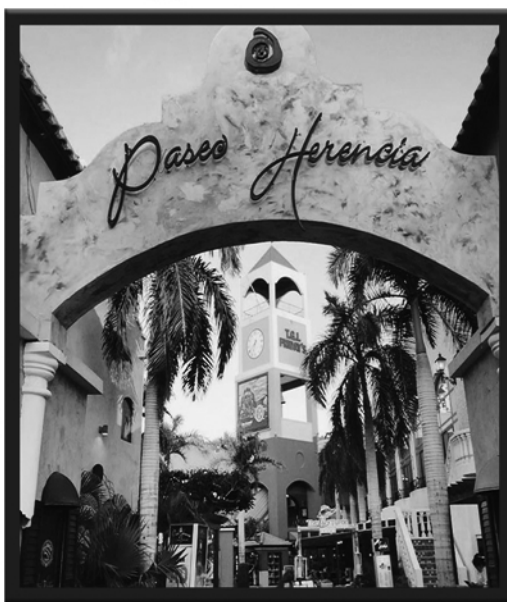


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## Mexico's new leader says relations with Trump good

Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexico's leftist new president said Wednesday that relations with U.S. President Donald Trump are "good," and the two will probably talk soon about the immigration issue.

Many analysts had been expecting President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to run into headlong conflict with Trump, especially since a caravan of about 7,000 Central American migrants set up camp on the U.S. border last month. The caravan's presence, and an attempt to cross the border en masse, led Trump to threaten to close the border.

But Lopez Obrador said he is hopeful the two sides can agree on development aid for Central America and southern Mexico to create jobs so people won't have



Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador waves as he arrives for the swearing-in ceremony for Mayor-elect Claudia Sheinbaum, in Mexico City, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018.

Associated Press

to emigrate.

"We are in constant communication, and the com-

munication is good," Lopez Obrador said Wednesday. "Relations are good."

"It is very likely that in coming days we will talk with President Donald Trump

about this issue in particular, the immigration issue," he said.

Mexico's Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard has been in Washington for talks on the issue.

But Lopez Obrador sidestepped questions about whether Mexico will agree to house migrants while their asylum claims are processed in the United State, as U.S. officials have reportedly proposed.

Still in his first week in office, Lopez Obrador also said he is weighing what steps to take in regard to his extremely loose personal security arrangements, which have been widely criticized.

"We are looking at this issue," the president said, "My friends, family, civic activists, you (the press) are constantly bringing it to my attention." □

## Cuba to begin full internet access for mobile phones

By **ANDREA RODRIGUEZ**  
Associated Press

**HAVANA (AP)** — Cuba announced Tuesday night



In this July 1, 2015 file photo, youths use a password protected wifi network coming from a five star hotel to surf the Internet on their smart phones in downtown Havana, Cuba.

Associated Press

that its citizens will be offered full internet access for mobile phones beginning this week, becoming one of the last nations to offer such service.

Mayra Arevich, president of the Cuban state telecom monopoly ETECSA, went on national television to say Cubans can begin contracting 3G service for the first time Thursday.

Until now, Cubans have had access only to state-run email accounts on their phones. The Cuban government has been building a 3G network in cities across the island and some tourists, Cuban government officials and foreign business-

people have had access to it for several years.

The communist-governed island has one of the world's lowest rates of internet use but that has been expanding rapidly since Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro declared detente in 2014. Expansion has not slowed with President Donald Trump's partial rollback of relations.

Cuba authorized home internet in 2017 and hundreds of public Wi-Fi connection points have opened in parks and plazas around the country.

The new service will cost about 10 cents per megabyte, with packages rang-

ing from 600 megabytes for about \$7 to four gigabytes for about \$30.

Those prices are roughly in line with global standards but still out of reach for many Cubans who subsist on state salaries of about \$30 a month.

Cuba ran a fiber-optic connection to Venezuela in 2012, allowing the island to shift from slow and costly satellite links. It then began the slow process of allowing citizens to get online.

The government opened state-run internet cafes in 2013, joined by Wi-Fi sites two years later. The number of sites has grown to more than 800. □



## LOCAL



## Hour of Code

**ORANJESTAD** — The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts! Over the past years since its inception in 2014, the Hour of Code has reached tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. The event takes place around the world from December 3rd till December 7th, 2018.

The Hour of Code is an attempt to teach people the basics of computer programming in 60 minutes in a fun, simple way. It is part of a campaign that Code.org, a non-profit organization, launched in the US with the goal of introducing coding into the US curriculum and raising awareness around what coding is. The idea was to show that it's not just about the geek in

the basement or the super-tech-savvy person but that it actually plays a role in everything we do and everybody should have access to it. And 20 million kids signed up to it.

Since 2015 Aruba has been taking part in this "hour of code". It was introduced by Mr. Peter Scholing of the national library of Aruba. It started out with 150 participants and today they have reached almost 1.930 participants under the guidance of 80 volunteers. With the cooperation of the Government of Aruba and several other companies they made it possible for different schools of Aruba to be able to be part of this. Schools that will take part in this year's hour of code are College San Antonio, Abraham de veer, Reina Beatrix, and SPO scol ofishi y algun otro mas. The national Library will also have a school invited for this. The company Gamma will be helping Mon Plaisir School, Prinses Amalia and our national water plant will be hosting Santa Famia School. Not only will kids be taught how

to do coding but also how to solve problems, how to be flexible and how to deal with change in speed. This

will also enhance their creativity. This event is for suitable for everyone. Young and old. Anyone can learn

from it and experience the fun of it. □



## Monetary Policy

**ORANJESTAD** — During its meeting of September 21, 2018, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) decided to keep the reserve requirement at 11.0 percent and to uphold the advance rate at 1.0 percent, after reviewing the most recent economic and monetary data. The following information and analysis were considered in reaching this decision, based on July 2018 data.

### International reserves

Both the international reserves (+1.8 percent) and official reserves (+3.0 percent) recorded growth in the first seven months

of 2018. Consequently, the international reserves and the official reserves reached, respectively, Afl. 1,857.6 million and Afl. 1,698.1 million at end-July 2018.

### Credit developments

Growth in total commercial bank credit remained positive (+1.9 percent) in July 2018, compared to December 2017. This development was mainly driven by surges in housing mortgages, commercial mortgages, and current account loans.

### Inflation

The 12-month average rate of inflation rose to 1.3

percent in July 2018, compared to -0.5 percent in December 2017, primarily the result of an uptick in the transport, food, and recreation and culture components. The 12-month core inflation (excluding energy and food) reached 0.8 percent, an increase of 0.6 percentage point.

### Tourism

During the first seven months of 2018, tourism indicators development noted upturns, as growth was registered in tourist arrivals (+2.0 percent), visitor nights (+2.0 percent), and cruise visitor arrivals (+3.6 percent).



### Money supply

In July 2018, money supply registered an increase of Afl. 181.1 million to Afl. 4,388.4 million compared to December 2017, result-

ing from expansions in the net domestic assets (+Afl. 133.1 million) and in the net foreign assets (+Afl. 48.0 million, excluding revaluation differences). □



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ORANJESTAD — All are invited to Chabad Aruba's annual Chanukah Live Concert taking place in Palm Beach tonight on Thursday evening. Abi and Eli, singers from Panama will entertain the guests with a full array of fine Jewish music, there will be a lighting of the biggest Chanukah Menorah in Aruba and of course free latkes and Jelly Donuts - a night of joy and light!

The concert is bound to be an exciting evening full of fun for all the family- the atmosphere at the previous Chanukah Live Concerts was electric and Rabbi Ahron Blasberg and his wife Chaya from Chabad are sure this year will be no different.

"The singers are spectacular, there will be a bounce house for kids, Kosher hot dogs and Chanukah gifts for sale, and thanks to our

sponsors- all invited and free entry for everyone! It's going to be an event you don't want to miss!" Rabbi Blasberg says. Chabad would like to thank the Playa Linda Resort for hosting the event and sponsoring the weekend stay raffle prize, and all the other sponsors for making this event happen and free for all to attend: CMB- Caribbean Mercantile Bank, Diamond International, the Ponson family, the Cigar Emporium, 4D Photo Bar and the Brickel Bay Beach Club & Resort.

Chanukah Live Concert will take place tonight Thursday December 6th at the Playa Linda parking lot. Doors open at 6.30pm with the concert beginning at 7pm.

For more information or to purchase VIP tickets visit [www.JewishAruba.com/Chanukah](http://www.JewishAruba.com/Chanukah) □





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## Honoring at the Barcelo Hotel

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Jonathan Boekhoudt of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and Friendly family as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The honorees are Mr. Jack & Mrs. Amanda and their children Jack & Katelyn Kopera, who are residents of Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey. The honorees stated that they love the beautiful weather, the people of Aruba and the amazing sunsets very much.

Boekhoudt together with representatives of Barcelo Hotel presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as her home away from home for so many years. □





## Happy Island Miracles in Pictures & Words

Books, they can shake your world upside down. A good book is changing your mood like that perfect vacation spot that energizes your spirit.

Put these two together and what you get is a vacation book, a memory of that wonderful, heavenly place where you spent your valuable leisure time. Aruba Today dived into a local book store and wondered which Aruba books thrill the visitor's mind. Sylvia Wouters, store manager at Bruna Book Store, gladly helped us out and informed us about a small selection of Happy Island Miracles in pictures and words.

### Aruba Point to Point by Federico Cabello

"Beautiful pictures of Aruba, this is a perfect coffee table book to dream away with", explains Sylvia. The book has 192 full color pages and more than 400 photos in a landscape format of 9.1 x 6.6 x 1.1 inches. In the words of the author: "Slipping beyond a dynamic tourist industry to discover its wild and undeveloped beauty. Starting at the extreme north of the island, at California Lighthouse, I travel south along pristine beaches of white sand and calm, translucent seas, passing hotels, sailboats and shipwrecks as I go. At the southern tip, it is hard not to wish that the island would never end. Then back up the rocky East coast, where time and the eternal embrace of the waves have opened secret bays and stunning beaches in the shelter of rock walls. From beach to beach, point to point, cave to cliff to boat to bird, Aruba truly is... One Happy Island."

### We Are Aruba by Linda Reijnders

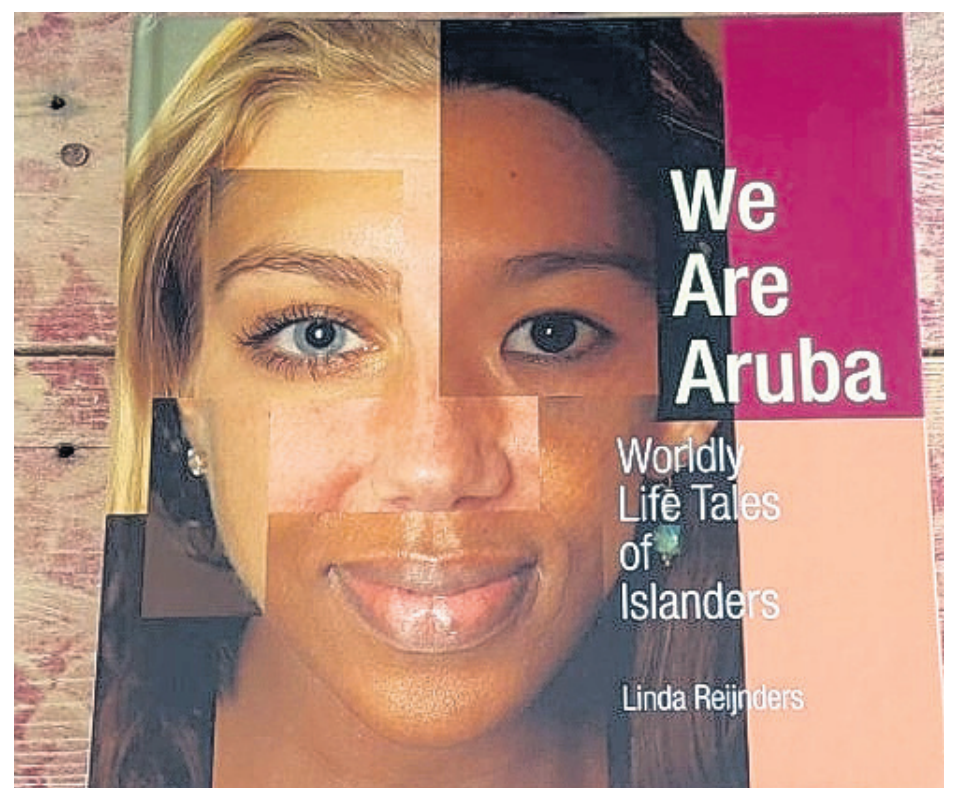
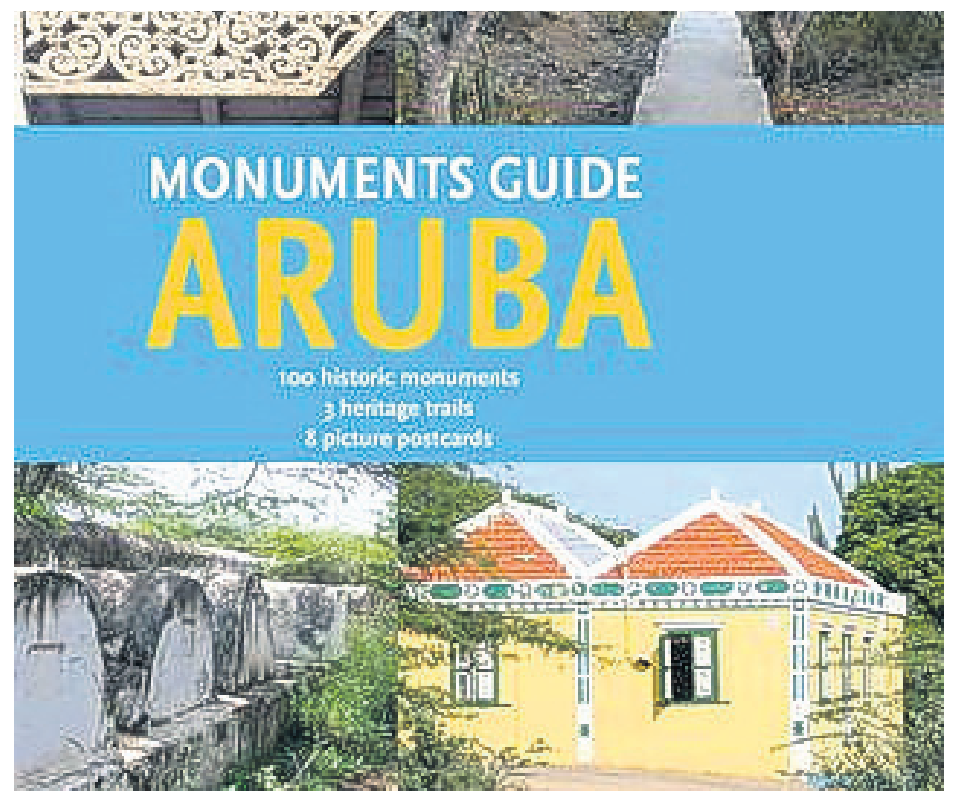
Worldly life tales of islanders that come from 76 different countries. This is a book that tells the stories of immigrants who make up for the multicultural society that Aruba is. A world within an island, a cocktail of people. The book is visibly enriched with a picture of each interviewed immigrant and an image of her/his country as well as a map with the country's location. In the back you will find a list with all nationalities living in the island and their numbers.

### Aruba Monuments Guide by Michel Bakker and Olga van der Klooster

Aruba! Everyone knows this tropical island in the sun with pearly white beaches and palm trees swaying in the trade winds. But there's more to Aruba than this. It has a fascinating history, a diverse culture and a rich architecture. Traces can still be found of the original indigenous inhabitants, and of the gold industry and aloe plantations. The island's architectural heritage includes historic churches, a fort and a lighthouse. And you will come across the island's characteristic cunucu houses wherever you go. This guide will lead you through this wonderful cultural heritage along three routes: one driving route around the entire island, and two walking routes in the cities of Oranjestad and San Nicolas. You will discover places known only to insiders. And of course this guide also provides historical backgrounds and practical information.

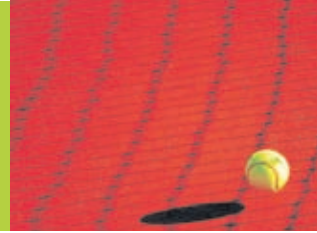
### Modern Caribbean Flavors by Helmi Smeulders

This is the book about the contemporary Caribbean kitchen with healthy recipes made with fresh and local ingredients. With recipes for Tropical Quinoa Salad with Mango & Pomegranate Seeds, Sweet Potato Salad, Goat Merguez, Watermelon Sangria or Plantain Soup, the Caribbean vibe enters your kitchen, and you feel for a bit you are back in the tropics again....





# SPORTS



Ohio State NCAA college football head coach Urban Meyer answers questions during a news conference announcing his retirement Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio.  
Associated Press

## For Urban Meyer, a good time to say goodbye

By TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

Urban Meyer stood before Ohio State boosters seven years ago with one goal in mind as he returned to the state he grew up in and the university where he got his first job.

"Our objective is simple: to make the state of Ohio proud," Meyer said.

As Meyer walks away from coaching — perhaps for good — the final report card on that is mixed, at best.

Yes, there was a lot to be proud of on the field, where Meyer earned his huge salary and more. Under his watch, the Buckeyes won a national championship and lost only nine times in seven years.

Those are the kind of numbers that get statues erected for coaches at some schools. But there won't be any statue of Meyer out in front of the Horseshoe in Columbus.

Continued on Page 22

# FLAMMABLE CONTENT



## Calgary rallies past Columbus 9-6

Calgary Flames' Sean Monahan celebrates his goal against the Columbus Blue Jackets' during the third period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio. The Flames beat the Blue Jackets 9-6.

Associated Press



## Week 13 chock full of bad calls and bad looks for the NFL

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**

AP Pro Football Writer

Just when the NFL was enjoying a ratings rebound and an explosion of offensive firepower that has fans giddy over their favorite and/or fantasy teams, the league reverted to its bumbling ways in Week 13.

It began with a prime-time officiating fiasco by its most experienced crew.

The poor performance by referee Walt Anderson's crew Thursday night sullied an otherwise classic Saints-Cowboys showdown that reminded everyone defense can be sexy, too.

Jaylon Smith's helmet-to-helmet hit on Alvin Kamara was the most egregious non-call, one that Fox Sports rules analyst Mike Pereira called "a clear example of leading with the crown of the helmet."

Just feet away from the illegal hit were field judge Terry Brown and line judge Byron Boston, both of whom kept their yellow flags tucked safely away as New Orleans coach Sean Payton went ballistic.

Just under the six-minute mark came the most crucial bad call.

With the Cowboys facing third-and-5 from the 50-yard line, Saints cornerback P.J. Williams tackled Cowboys receiver Cole Beasley a full yard shy of the first-down marker, but the officials said to move



In this Oct. 8, 2017, file photo, Kansas City Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt warms up for the team's NFL football game against the Houston Texans in Houston.

Associated Press

the chains.

Out of challenges, Payton was helpless to get the call reviewed, and because it was outside of 2 minutes and not a scoring play, the league's hands were tied, too.

Payton had his own inexplicable blunder after the teams traded takeaways in the final minutes.

After Dallas got the ball back at the Saints 16 with 2:08 left, Ezekiel Elliott ran for 2 yards and Payton burned his last timeout three seconds before the 2-minute warning.

Had he waited, the Cow-

boys likely would have run twice, forcing the Saints to call their final timeout and running more time off the clock. A field goal would have left the Saints down six with about 45 seconds for Drew Brees to try to pull off some last-minute magic.

But the timeout at 2:03 meant the Cowboys could throw on second down knowing the clock would stop regardless once the play was over. A pass interference call gave them a first down and they ran out the clock.

The next day brought more

bad news for the league when TMZ released surveillance video of Kareem Hunt shoving and kicking a woman in an altercation that ultimately led to the star running back's release from the Kansas City Chiefs and landed Hunt on the commissioner's exempt list. On Sunday, Hunt told ESPN that the league had never interviewed him about the matter, which prompted the NFL to release a statement defending itself.

Hunt was cut the same day Washington Redskins executive Doug Williams apologized for calling linebacker

Reuben Foster's domestic violence arrest "small potatoes" compared to crimes committed by people in power.

The Redskins took plenty of heat after claiming Foster off waivers from the San Francisco 49ers, who released him Tuesday, three days after he was arrested and charged with domestic violence in Tampa, Florida.

Sunday's games brought another slew of gaffes.

Most notable was the Los Angeles Chargers getting away with a blatant false start on a touchdown for the second time this season.

In October, Chargers right tackle Russell Okung wasn't whistled for an obvious false start on a touchdown play against Cleveland, and shortly afterward, the NFL fired down judge Hugo Cruz for inadequate performance.

On Sunday night in Pittsburgh, the Chargers did it again, only this time it was right tackle Sam Tevi who clearly jumped early on Philip Rivers' 46-yard touchdown throw to Travis Benjamin.

"We've seen it before and it led to a dismissal. I certainly hope that doesn't happen again," said Pereira, noting "that was a miss that was on the same level as the one" in October. □



At left, in a Jan. 7, 2018, file photo, Buffalo Bills defensive end Jerry Hughes (55) leaves the field after an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, in Jacksonville, Fla. At right, in a Nov. 19, 2015, file photo, umpire Roy Ellison (81) gestures during the third quarter of an NFL football game between the Jacksonville Jaguars and Tennessee Titans, in Jacksonville, Fla.

## NFL refs back official accused of calling player vulgar name

By **JOHN WAWROW**

AP Sports Writer

The NFL Referees Association is questioning why the league isn't focusing more attention on Bills defensive end Jerry Hughes for threatening umpire Roy Ellison following Buffalo's game at Miami last weekend.

Ellison has been placed on administrative leave while the NFL investigates Hughes' accusation that Ellison called him a vulgar name during the game.

In a statement released Wednesday, NFLRA ex-

ecutive director Scott Green says the association expects the NFL's investigation to clear Ellison while turning the focus on Hughes.

Green says Hughes has a history of being flagged for personal misconduct and arguing with officials.

"While we are disappointed that the NFL has yet to address that aspect of the incident, we look forward to working with the league during its review, and will ensure that Roy's rights are protected during this pro-

cess," Green said.

TV video shows the player confronting Ellison in the tunnel near the locker room and accusing him of using a derogatory term.

Hughes waved his index finger and shouted, "I'll catch you! I'll catch you, guaranteed!" before being pulled away by a teammate.

Ellison was suspended in 2013 for making a derogatory statement to Washington tackle Trent Williams during a game. □



## Atlanta's Martinez wins MVP award in Major League Soccer

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Josef Martinez claimed the MVP award from Major League Soccer on Wednesday after shattering the record for goals in a season and leading Atlanta United to the championship game.

The 25-year-old Venezuelan striker received his Landon Donovan trophy during a ceremony at the headquarters of United owner Arthur Blank.

Martinez already earned the Golden Boot for scoring 31 goals in 34 games this season, breaking the mark of 27 shared by Roy Lassiter, Chris Wondolowski and Bradley Wright-Phillips.

"I'm very happy because this is an award we all wanted," Martinez said through a translator. "It is due to a lot of work by myself, my teammates, my coaching staff and my family. I just want to thank all those

people."

He credits his teammates for giving him plenty of scoring chances, including fellow MVP finalist Miguel Almiron. The other finalists were Zlatan Ibrahimovic of the Los Angeles Galaxy, Wayne Rooney of D.C. United and Carlos Vela of Los Angeles FC.

"If it wasn't for all those guys, all the passes they assisted me on this season, the spectacular year that all of them had, we wouldn't be talking about this award or talking about Atlanta United playing in the final," Martinez said.

He has added three goals in the playoffs. Atlanta won the Eastern Conference title and will host the MLS Cup final on Saturday night against the Portland Timbers.

The MVP is eager to add one more trophy to his collection.

"We want to be champi-

ons," Martinez said. "We've been working two seasons for this opportunity. We don't want to let it slip away."

After coming to Atlanta United from Torino in Italy's Serie A, Martinez made an immediate impact with the MLS expansion team in 2017. He scored 19 goals in 20 league games and might've broken the scoring record if not for a quadriceps injury that kept him out for two months. He was hurt while playing for the Venezuelan national team. Atlanta coach Tata Martino came into this season with high expectations for the diminutive striker.

"When I rejoined the team in February, there was a meeting between myself and Tata," Martinez recalled. "Tata told me all I have to do is find space and I could score 30 goals in a season. At the time, I didn't believe him. Some-



In this Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018, file photo, Atlanta United forward Josef Martinez celebrates after scoring a goal against the New York Red Bulls during the first half in their Eastern Conference finals MLS soccer game in Atlanta.

Associated Press

times people say things, but you don't expect it to come true. Thanks to everyone, I was able to do it." Martino will be coaching his final game with Atlanta in the MLS Cup. He is expected to take over at Mexico's national coach. "I just wish him the best wherever he goes," Marti-

nez said. "Maybe we'll reconnect in the future." Martinez said he keeps his Golden Boot trophy on a table at his home, surrounded by game balls. When asked what he plans to do with the MVP award, he couldn't resist having some fun. □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

*Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!*



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit [www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com](http://www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com) or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



Have an authentic seafood dining experience at Driftwood Restaurant, situated in the characteristic downtown Oranjestad. This comfortable downtown restaurant has a long tradition (30 years) of serving the freshest fish, the biggest shrimp, and the most succulent Caribbean Lobster. Opening Hours: 5:00pm to 10:30pm (closed on Sundays) For reservations visit [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) or call (297)-5832515 Address: Klipstraat 12. Oranjestad, Aruba



# Matthews nets 2nd goal late in OT as Maple Leafs edge Sabres

**By The Associated Press**  
**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)** — Auston Matthews scored his second goal with three seconds on the clock in overtime, and the Toronto Maple Leafs matched their best start in 84 years with a 4-3 victory over the Buffalo Sabres on Tuesday night. The Maple Leafs won their fifth straight game and improved to 20-8. The only other time it took them just 28 games to reach 20 wins was when they opened the 1934-35 season at 20-6-2. Patrick Marleau scored with 5:13 remaining in regulation to force overtime, and Kasper Kapanen set up the decisive goal. Jake Gardiner also scored and Mitchell Marner had an assist to give him 11 in five games. Frederik Andersen stopped 38 shots to win his fourth straight.

Jack Eichel scored twice for Buffalo, which dropped to 0-2-2 since equaling the franchise record with a 10-game winning streak. Sam Reinhart had a goal and an assist.

## **GOLDEN KNIGHTS 5, CAPITALS 3**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Nate Schmidt scored twice in the final two minutes to lift Vegas over Washington in a rematch of the Stanley Cup final last spring.

It was the first time Washington skated at T-Mobile Arena since winning and hoisting the Stanley Cup in June.

Schmidt burst through the neutral zone and beat goalie Braden Holtby with a tiebreaking wrist shot with 1:24 left for his first goal of the season. The former Capital added an empty-netter moments later.

Ryan Reaves, Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and Cody Eakin also scored for the Golden Knights. Marc-Andre Fleury made 23 saves. Jakub Vrana had two goals and Alex Ovechkin scored for Washington. Holtby also stopped 23 shots.

**PENGUINS 6, AVALANCHE 3**  
**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Patric Hornqvist's natural hat trick in the third period powered Pittsburgh past Colorado. The Avalanche had erased a three-goal deficit to tie



Toronto Maple Leafs forward Auston Matthews (34) carries the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Buffalo Sabres, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

the game going into the third when Hornqvist went to work.

His power-play goal 6:11 into the final period gave the Penguins the lead. Hornqvist beat Semyon Varlamov again 1:21 later to push Pittsburgh's advantage to two, and the veteran from Sweden completed the hat trick on his next shift when he fired a wrist shot by Varlamov less than 90 seconds later.

Jake Guentzel, Evgeni Malkin and Derick Brassard also scored for the Penguins, who halted Colorado's 11-game point streak. Kris Letang added two assists, and Casey DeSmith made 42 saves.

Tyson Barrie, Carl Soderberg and Matt Nieto scored for the Avalanche, who had their six-game road win streak snapped.

## **LIGHTNING 6, RED WINGS 5, SO**

**DETROIT (AP)** — Nikita Kucherov and defenseman Victor Hedman scored in a shootout to give Tampa Bay a comeback win over Detroit.

The Lightning, who have won seven of eight, erased a 5-3 deficit in the third period and overcame Frans Nielsen's hat trick.

Mathieu Joseph had two goals and an assist for Tampa Bay. Steven Stamkos, J.T. Miller and Cedric Paquette also scored.

Ryan Callahan had two assists and Edward Pasquale made 19 saves to win his NHL debut. He stopped Nielsen and Thomas Vanek in the tiebreaker.

Despite the shootout goal, Kucherov's 10-game point streak came to an end. Nielsen scored three times for his second career hat trick. Gustav Nyquist scored twice for the Red Wings, plus a shootout goal.

## **JETS 3, ISLANDERS 1**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jacob Trouba and Adam Lowry scored 22 seconds apart early in the third period to rally Winnipeg over New York.

Nikolaj Ehlers added an empty-net goal with 2.1 seconds left and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 27 shots as Winnipeg won for the fifth time in six games. The Jets have three straight road wins for the first time this season after completing a sweep of their three-game trip to the New York area.

Anders Lee scored for the Islanders, who have lost three of four.

## **PANTHERS 5, BRUINS 0**

**SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)** — Roberto Luongo made 33 saves in his 77th career shutout, Mike Hoffman scored twice and Florida blanked Boston.

Luongo, who returned to the lineup after missing five games with a knee injury,

passed Ed Belfour and Tony Esposito for sole possession of ninth place on the NHL's shutout list.

Jonathan Huberdeau had a goal and two assists, while Mike Matheson and Evgenii Dadonov also scored. Aleksander Barkov had three assists and Keith Yandle added two.

Jaroslav Halak stopped 39 shots as the Panthers had a season-high 44 shots on goal. The Bruins lost for the third time in four games.

## **FLAMES 9, BLUE JACKETS 6**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — Johnny Gaudreau had two goals and two assists, and Calgary scored five times in the second period to rally past Columbus.

Cam Atkinson netted a hat trick to extend his point streak to 11 games, but the Blue Jackets lost their second straight.

Sean Monahan also had two goals and two assists for Calgary, which scored five straight goals for a 6-4 lead during the second period. Monahan opened that barrage 1:55 into the second, and Elias Lindholm, Matthew Tkachuk, Noah Hanifin and TJ Brodie followed with goals. Tkachuk, Hanifin and Brodie scored in a span of 1:53.

Monahan, Gaudreau and Austin Czarnik each scored in the third period for Calgary.

David Rittich and Mike

Smith combined to stop 24 shots for the Flames. Calgary earned a point in its fifth straight game to stay atop the Pacific Division and improved to 17-9-2.

Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 18 of 26 shots before being replaced in the third period by Joonas Korpisalo.

Zach Werenski, Josh Anderson and Nick Foligno also scored for Columbus.

## **CANADIENS 5, SENATORS 2**

**MONTREAL (AP)** — Max Domi had two goals and an assist and Jonathan Drouin added a goal and two assists as Montreal defeated Ottawa.

Artturi Lehkonen and Brendan Gallagher also scored for the Canadiens, who won for the second time in eight games. Carey Price stopped 28 shots.

Mark Stone and Dylan DeMelo scored for the Senators, whose three-game winning streak was halted. Craig Anderson made 36 saves.

## **WILD 3, CANUCKS 2**

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)** — Jason Zucker broke a tie late in the second period and Minnesota scored on all three of its power plays, beating the staggering Vancouver Canucks to stop a three-game slide.

Ryan Suter and Zach Parise also scored for the Wild. Devan Dubnyk made 29 saves and Mikael Granlund had two assists.

Josh Leivo scored on his first shot in a Canucks uniform. Tyler Motte also had a goal for Vancouver, which has lost 12 of 13. Anders Nilsson stopped 25 shots.

## **COYOTES 2, KINGS 1**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Nick Schmaltz had a power-play goal, Adin Hill made 25 saves for his fourth straight win and Arizona beat Los Angeles.

Lawson Crouse scored a short-handed goal for the Coyotes, undefeated since acquiring Schmaltz in a trade with Chicago on Nov. 25. Hill has stopped 84 of 86 shots since replacing an injured Antti Raanta to start the third period at Minnesota on Nov. 27. □





In this Oct. 9, 2017, photo, Philadelphia 76ers guard Markelle Fultz controls the ball during the first quarter of a preseason NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics in Boston.

## 76ers G Fultz out indefinitely with thoracic irritation

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Philadelphia 76ers guard Markelle Fultz is out indefinitely with thoracic outlet syndrome. Fultz visited with several specialists to figure out what's ailing him. The Sixers said the specialists have identified a compression or irritation in the area between the lower neck and upper chest. Physical therapy was recommended for Fultz before returning to play. Fultz's representatives informed the Sixers last month that the guard would be shut down until he had been examined by specialists. Fultz was the No. 1 pick of the 2017 draft. He played just 14 games last season because of a shoulder injury that appeared to affect his shooting mechanics and made him one of the more scrutinized players in the NBA. Fultz lost his starting spot in the rotation when the Sixers traded for Jimmy Butler. The 20-year-old Fultz is averaging 8.2 points, 3.1 assists and 3.7 rebounds and is shooting 42 percent from the field. □

## All top players set for Australian Open in January

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)** — Australian Open officials say the world's top 102 women and top 101 men have confirmed they will compete at the first Grand Slam tennis tournament of 2019.

World No. 1 Simona Halep heads up the women's field and Novak Djokovic, seeking his record seventh Australian Open title, is the No. 1-ranked male player. The tournament begins Jan. 14 at Melbourne Park with Roger Federer and Caroline Wozniacki as singles defending champions. Serena Williams, ranked No. 16, plans to make her return to Melbourne Park for the first time since winning in 2017



Romania's Simona Halep clenches her fist after defeating Spain's Garbine Muguruza during their semifinal match at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on June 7, 2018. Halep won 6-1, 6-4.

while eight weeks' pregnant with baby Alexis Olympia. Tournament officials said Wednesday that Andy Murray, who is returning after an injury layoff, has entered using a protected ranking. □



Dallas Mavericks forward Luka Doncic (77) attempts a shot over Portland Trail Blazers center Jusuf Nurkic (27) as Portland Trail Blazers Al-Farouq Aminu (8) and Maurice Harkless (4) look on during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018, in Dallas.

Associated Press

## Doncic, Matthews lead Mavericks past Trail Blazers 111-102

**By The Associated Press**

**DALLAS (AP)** — Luka Doncic scored 21 points and Wesley Matthews added 17 as the Dallas Mavericks won for the ninth time in 11 games, beating the Portland Trail Blazers 111-102 Tuesday night.

DeAndre Jordan added 12 points and 17 rebounds for Dallas, which won its eighth straight at home for the first time since its championship season of 2010-11.

Doncic, who missed his first game Sunday with a right hip strain, scored 14 in the second half and finished with nine rebounds.

Damian Lillard scored 25 of his 33 points in the second half as Portland tried, but failed, to rally from a deficit that was mostly double digits through almost all the first three quarters. Lillard and C.J. McCollum struggled from the field, going 17 for 42, and 4 for 15 from 3-point range.

**PACERS 96, BULLS 90**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Myles Turner matched his season high with 18 points and added 11 rebounds and five blocked shots as Indiana spoiled the debut of new Chicago coach Jim Boylen.

Darren Collison had 23

points and eight rebounds, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 14 points and Tyreke Evans finished with 10 for Indiana. Domantas Sabonis added nine points and 11 rebounds off the bench for the Pacers.

Lauri Markkanen led the Bulls with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Justin Holiday, facing off against his brother, Indiana rookie Aaron Holiday, finished with 15 points. Chicago has lost seven straight games.

Boylan was named Bulls coach on Monday, taking over for the fired Fred Hoiberg, who was let go following a 5-19 start this season. Hoiberg had a 115-155 mark with one playoff appearance in three-plus seasons.

**MAGIC 105, HEAT 90**

**MIAMI (AP)** — Aaron Gordon scored 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, Nikola Vucevic finished with 19 points and 10 rebounds and Orlando beat Miami.

Terrence Ross added 19 off the bench for the Magic, who were 14 for 28 from 3-point range. Evan Fournier scored 13 and DJ Augustin had 11 for Orlando.

Justise Winslow scored 14 for Miami, which had won

two straight — and still hasn't had a three-game winning streak this season. Kelly Olynyk scored 13, Hassan Whiteside had 12 and Dwyane Wade and James Johnson each added 11 for the Heat.

Whiteside left the Heat bench with 40.5 seconds left and walked to the locker room. He didn't play in the fourth quarter, and has been unhappy when that's occurred in the past.

**JAZZ 139, SPURS 105**

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — Donovan Mitchell scored 20 points and Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 10 rebounds to lead Utah.

Kyle Korver scored 15 points in his first home game since he returned to the Jazz, and Derrick Favors added 14 points as Utah won for the first time at home in nearly a month. The Jazz beat Boston 123-115 on Nov. 9, but have been on the road much of the season and haven't found a rhythm at home.

Jakob Poeltl scored a career-high 20 points for the Spurs. DeMar DeRozan and LaMarcus Aldridge each scored 16 points for San Antonio, which fell to 1-13 when Aldridge fails to reach the 20-point mark. □



## SPORTS BRIEFS



New York Rangers defenseman Marc Staal (18) controls the puck against Winnipeg Jets defenseman Josh Morrissey (44) during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

## Forbes: Rangers remain most valuable NHL franchise

**TORONTO (AP)** — The New York Rangers are the NHL's most valuable franchise for a fourth consecutive year, according to Forbes. The Rangers top the annual list of franchise valuations at \$1.55 billion, up 3 percent from last year. The Toronto Maple Leafs are second at \$1.35 billion, and Montreal Canadiens third at \$1.3 billion, 4 percent increases for both clubs. Original Six clubs make up the top five, with the Chicago Blackhawks fourth at \$1.05 billion and the Boston Bruins fifth at \$925 million. The Detroit Red Wings are not far behind in eighth (\$775 million) and have seen an 11 percent

increase thanks to a new downtown arena. Los Angeles (sixth, \$810 million), Philadelphia (seventh, \$800 million), Vancouver (ninth, \$735 million) and Washington (10th, \$725 million) round out the top 10. The Capitals enjoyed a league-best 16 percent boost with their first Stanley Cup title. The Vegas Golden Knights are 12th at \$575 million after reaching the Cup final as an expansion team. At the other end of the list are the Florida Panthers (30th, \$295 million) and Arizona Coyotes (31st, \$290 million). The clubs were the only two to lose value according to Forbes, down 3 percent each. □

## Eliud Kipchoge, Ibarguen win IAAF best-athlete awards

**PARIS (AP)** — Marathon world-record holder Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya and Colombian long jumper Caterine Ibarguen won the IAAF athletes of the year awards Tuesday. Kipchoge, 34, clocked 2 hours, 1 minute, 39 seconds at the Berlin Marathon

in September, shaving a whopping 78 seconds off the previous world record set in the German capital in 2014 by fellow Kenyan Dennis Kimetto. Kipchoge also won a third London Marathon victory in April. □



In this Dec. 2, 2018, file photo, Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer walks off the field with his wife, Shelley Meyer, early Sunday after defeating Northwestern in the Big Ten championship NCAA college football game in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

### URBAN MEYER

Continued from Page 17

Too much baggage and too many questions about his judgment and propensity for disregarding the truth for that to happen.

It's a conflicted legacy in a world where success is almost always defined by wins and losses. For all the victories Meyer had — and all the money he made — it was getting increasingly hard to believe some of the things that came out of his mouth.

That was a problem every time he stepped before a microphone to talk about his team. And it was surely becoming more of a problem when the parents of 18-year-old recruits began asking the kind of hard questions that Meyer had no desire to answer.

He should have been fired before the season even began, after a university report showed he tolerated domestic violence accusations and other bad behavior from assistant coach Zach Smith — and then lied about what he knew.

Meyer kept his job but didn't do his cause any good with a series of defiant statements that seemed to portray himself as the real victim in the ongoing drama. After a three-game suspension, Meyer was back on the sideline and ended up leading Ohio State to a Rose Bowl appearance that at any other school

might have been considered a successful season.

But even before he announced his resignation Tuesday — ostensibly for health reasons — it was becoming increasingly clear that Meyer wouldn't be completing a contract that paid him \$7.6 million a season and ran through 2022.

Again, too much baggage and too many questions. Meyer seemed to acknowledge as much when asked whether the suspension would cloud his legacy once he leaves Ohio State. "I'm sure it will ... I can lie to you and say it is not important to me," he said.

Probably not the best choice of words considering everything. But football is Meyer's life work, and how he'll be remembered for that work is important to him, as it should be.

He won two national titles at Florida and added a third at Ohio State. Aside from Clemson coach Dabo Swinney, he's the only coach in the country who hasn't been steamrolled totally by Nick Saban and the machine he's built at Alabama.

But the controversy that Meyer played a big part in creating was never going to completely go away. Meyer wasn't going to win in the court of public opinion like he won on the football field, no matter how aggrieved he felt.

And, in the end, maybe

there's one thing we can take Meyer's word on — and that's his health. It was hard to watch Meyer at times on the sideline this year bent over from pain from a cyst in his brain that causes severe headaches. And don't forget that he left Florida earlier because of stress-related issues.

Meyer said he doubts he will coach again, and that's the right call. He's got nothing more to prove on the field, and he's never going to prove to his detractors that he is a different person than they think he is.

But if the mark of a good coach is that his former players still love him, Meyer seems good on that count. A number of them took to social media to give their thanks as the news of his retirement spread.

"To the man who gave me the opportunity of a lifetime," Detroit Lions offensive tackle Taylor Decker, a former Ohio State star, posted on Instagram, "and whose football program molded me into a man ... all I can say is THANK YOU." Meyer will coach on New Year's Day against Washington in his first — and presumably last — Rose Bowl. With designated successor Ryan Day by his side, Meyer will try for one last win before going on to an undefined role at OSU, presumably with a settlement of the \$38 million he has left on his contract. □



# Jewish athletes condemn anti-Semitism after temple shooting

By JIMMY GOLEN, AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)

— Memphis Grizzlies forward Omri Casspi, who was born in Israel, was early in his NBA career when he saw a picture of himself defaced with a swastika. Arizona Cardinals quarterback Josh Rosen grew up with kids who made fun of the size of his nose.

New England Patriots receiver Julian Edelman has heard anti-Semitic taunts during games, but he had been willing to write them off as opposing fans "just trying to get underneath your skin."

"You've been called stuff here and here," Edelman said. "But nothing to the extent where it's got me feeling the way a lot of Jews are feeling right now."

In the month since a massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh killed 11 people and injured six others, Jewish athletes said they were shocked by the shooting yet not concerned for their own safety as they travel, train and compete.

"There's crazy people out there, and it is what it is," Casspi said. "The notion is that anti-Semitism is dead — it's always going to be (around). Some people are just like that. There's going to be racist people, there's going to be anti-Semites." Robert Bowers has pleaded not guilty to murder and hate crime charges in the Oct. 27 shooting during Shabbat morning services. He remains jailed without bail.

Americans of all religions have rallied in support for the victims of the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history. Hometown quarterback Ben Roethlisberger wore cleats integrating a Jewish star into the Pittsburgh Steelers logo, along with the words "Stronger than Hate."

But for Jewish athletes, the shooting hit especially hard.

"I'm horrified by it," said Los Angeles Angels manager Brad Ausmus, who managed the Israeli team in the 2013 World Baseball Clas-



In this Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018, file photo, Arizona Cardinals quarterback Josh Rosen (3) throws as San Francisco 49ers defensive tackle DeForest Buckner (99) pursues during the second half of an NFL football game in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

sic. "Just the callousness and the loss of life. It takes someone that's unhuman to do something like that to innocent people." Jews in the United States have long cherished role models like Detroit Tigers slugger Hank Greenberg, Chicago Bears quarterback Sid Luckman or Olympic swimmer Mark Spitz. And any history of Jewish athletes includes the time Dodgers ace Sandy Koufax refused to pitch in the World Series because it conflicted with the holiday of Yom Kippur.

Other Jewish players remain scattered throughout sports — a point of pride for

fellow Jews but also a potential target for anti-Semitism.

"Sometimes people don't even think they're being racist, but they might be a little offensive," Rosen said. Casspi said he has always felt safe in the U.S., but while playing in Europe his Israeli team at times encountered violent protesters or played with no fans in the arena out of safety concerns.

Athletes speak often of worrying only about things within their control; as far as game preparation goes, racism and religious bigotry qualify as distractions. And so Edelman's inclination

was to "keep your head down" and not let it bother him.

"A lot of guys have got to deal with a lot of stuff when it comes to name calling," he said. "You get so wrapped up in football and your assignment that you brush stuff off and don't let it get to you. ... You take the high road, and you go from there."

But after the synagogue shooting, Edelman decided it was time to go public. Following the Patriots' Nov. 4 victory over the Green Bay Packers, he wore an Israeli baseball cap for his postgame interviews as a

shoutout to those in Pittsburgh.

"It's disgusting what happened. And I'm just backing them up," he said in a follow-up interview. "I'm proud of who I am and what I am. Just to let these victims know: 'We're all with you. This is a very tough time for you. I can't even imagine. But you have support.'"

"It's not like one of those things where you're gonna put your head under the ground and kind of hide," he said. "You're gonna say, 'Hey, that's what makes us stronger.'"

Rosen has also embraced his Judaism, developing a celebration dance called "The Hebrew Hammer" in the hopes that he can be a role model for Jewish fans and a leader in a locker room that includes a variety of races and religions.

"You can identify with any leader or role model you want. I'm just trying to be a good one," he said. "It is a part of me that I'm proud of, culturally."

Ausmus said many of the Jewish baseball players have a kinship, some of it from being part of a minority in the sport and some from playing together in the World Baseball Classic. "(It) has kind of fostered that feeling of connection," he said.

"They're spread throughout ... 25 different organizations, they come together," Ausmus said. "Every four years, you make that connection based on your heritage."

A three-time Gold Glove catcher who went to Dartmouth and played 18 years for four major league clubs, Ausmus said he wasn't particularly religious when growing up with a Jewish mother and Protestant father.

The only time he experienced anti-Semitism as a major leaguer was when a fan shouted things at a teammate.

The thing is, he wasn't even Jewish.

"His last name sounded Jewish," Ausmus said. "So the fan was ignorant in a couple different areas." □



In this Monday, Oct. 22, 2018, file photo, new Los Angeles Angels manager Brad Ausmus smiles while talking to reporters during a news conference in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press



# Where are the drones? Amazon's customers are still waiting

By DAVID KOENIG and JOSEPH PISANI

The Associated Press

Jeff Bezos boldly predicted five years ago that drones would be carrying Amazon packages to people's doorsteps by now.

Amazon customers are still waiting. And it's unclear when, if ever, this particular order by the company's founder and CEO will arrive.

Bezos made billions of dollars by transforming the retail sector. But overcoming the regulatory hurdles and safety issues posed by drones appears to be a challenge even for the world's wealthiest man. The result is a blown deadline on his claim to CBS' "60 Minutes" in December 2013 that drones would be making deliveries within five years.

The day may not be far off when drones will carry medicine to people in rural or remote areas, but the marketing hype around instant delivery of consumer goods looks more and more like just that — hype. Drones have a short battery life, and privacy concerns can be a hindrance, too.

"I don't think you will see delivery of burritos or diapers in the suburbs," says drone



This Dec. 7, 2016, file photo provided by Amazon shows an Amazon Prime Air drone in Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom.

analyst Colin Snow.

Drone usage has grown rapidly in some industries, but mostly outside the retail sector and direct interaction with consumers.

The government estimates that about 110,000 commercial drones are operating in U.S. airspace, and the number is expected to soar to about 450,000 in 2022. They are being used in rural areas for mining and agriculture, for inspecting power lines and pipelines, and for surveying.

Amazon says it is still push-

ing ahead with plans to use drones for quick deliveries, though the company is staying away from fixed timelines.

"We are committed to making our goal of delivering packages by drones in 30 minutes or less a reality," says Amazon spokeswoman Kristen Kish. The Seattle-based online retail giant says it has drone development centers in the United States, Austria, France, Israel and the United Kingdom. Delivery companies have been testing the use of drones to deliver emergency supplies and to cover ground quickly in less populated areas. By contrast, package deliveries would be concentrated in office parks and neighborhoods where there are bigger issues around safety and privacy.

In May, the Trump administration approved a three-year program for private companies and local government agencies to test drones for deliveries, inspections and other tasks. But pilot programs by major delivery companies suggest few Americans will be greeted by package-bearing drones any time soon. United Parcel Service tested launching a drone from a delivery truck that was covering a rural route in Florida. DHL Express, the German delivery compa-

ny, tested the use of drones to deliver medicine from Tanzania to an island in Lake Victoria.

Frank Appel, the CEO of DHL's parent company, Deutsche Post AG, said "over the next couple of years" drones will remain a niche vehicle and not widely used. He said a big obstacle is battery life.

"If you have to recharge them every other hour, then you need so many drones and you have to orchestrate that. So good luck with that," he told The Associated Press.

Appel said human couriers have another big advantage over drones: They know where customers live and which doorbell to ring. "To program that in IT is not that easy and not cheap," he said.

Analysts say it will take years for the Federal Aviation Administration to write all the rules to allow widespread drone deliveries.

Snow, the CEO of Skylogic Research, says a rule permitting operators to fly drones beyond their line of sight — so critical to deliveries — is at least 10 years away. A method will be needed to let law enforcement identify drones flying over people — federal officials are worried about their use by terrorists.

While the rules are being written, companies will rely

on waivers from the FAA to keep experimenting and running small-scale pilot programs.

"People like DHL and the rest of them (will say), 'Hey, we can deliver via drone this parcel package to this island,' but that's not the original vision that Amazon presented," Snow says.

There is a long list of FAA rules governing drone flights. They generally can't fly higher than 400 feet, over many federal facilities, or within five miles of an airport. Night flights are forbidden. For the delivery business, the biggest hold-up is that the machines must remain within sight of the operator at all times.

In June, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine said the FAA was being overly conservative in its safety standards for drones. The group said FAA's risk-averse attitude was holding back beneficial uses, such as drones helping firefighters who are battling a fierce blaze.

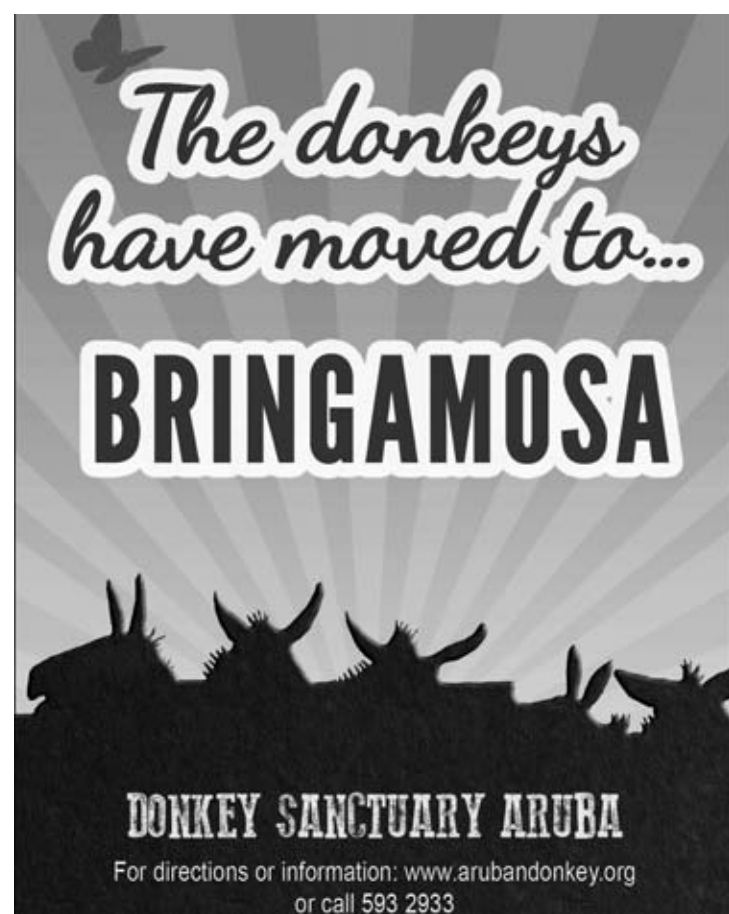
Even before the criticism by the scientific panel, the FAA had begun to respond more quickly to operators' requests for waivers from some rules, says Alan Perlman, founder of the Drone Pilot Ground School in Nashville, Tennessee. He said it is also getting easier and cheaper to buy liability insurance.

Bezos was mindful of the safety issues, telling "60 Minutes" back in 2013, "This thing can't land on somebody's head while they're walking around their neighborhood."

That didn't stop him from predicting that drones fed with GPS coordinates would be taking off and making deliveries in "four, five years. I think so. It will work, and it will happen."

To Perlman, the billionaire's optimism made perfect sense.

"When you're in his world you think more about technology than regulations, and the (drone) technology is there," Perlman said. □





# Moms start companies to fill demand for Spanish books

By ALEXANDRA OLSON  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — You might have heard of the three blind mice or the itsy-bitsy spider who went up the water spout. But have you ever heard of the little cold and hungry chicks?

If you grew up speaking Spanish, the answer is probably yes. But Susie Jaramillo wants everyone to know "Los Pollitos," a bedtime song about a hen taking care of her hatchlings that's as familiar in the Spanish-speaking world as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" is to English speakers.

The song is the heart of Canticos, a series of bilingual books, companion apps and singalong videos that the Venezuelan-American mother of two dreamed up after she couldn't find enough Spanish-language books to read to her children. The brand, which debuted in 2016, had its biggest breakthrough this year when Nickelodeon adapted it to develop a series for toddlers on its digital platforms.

Canticos capitalized on a growing market for Spanish books in the United States, which the traditional publishing industry has addressed in fits and starts. Small companies are stepping in to fill the void, leveraging social media and strategic retail partnerships to target key customer bases, often ones they themselves belong to.

"When I had my first child, I went online and thought: Where are all the board books of these songs that I grew up with" said Jaramillo, a former co-founder of a Latino-focused New York advertising agency. "We're always singing the American songs in Spanish, and our songs are great. Why aren't people singing them in English?"

Jaramillo teamed up with fellow mother Nuria Santamaria Wolfe, a former head of multicultural strategy at Twitter, to launch Encantos Media Studios, an entertainment company that released Canticos as the first of its planned bilingual brands.



In this Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018, photo, Celene Navarette poses for a picture at La Libreria book store in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Two other mothers, Patty Rodriguez and Ariana Stein, founded their own publishing company in 2014 when Rodriguez couldn't sell mainstream publishers on her concept of a bilingual board book series featuring Latino icons and traditions. The company, Lil' Libros, landed a partnership with Target just five months after publishing its first book, "Counting with Frida," now the best-seller on Amazon among children's counting books. The books are now sold at 1,300 stores nationwide.

"We didn't expect this reaction. We were doing it for love. If 100 kids picked up our books, we would have been happy," said Rodriguez, a senior producer for the radio show "On Air With Ryan Seacrest."

Friends Chiara Arroyo and Celene Navarette were on the book fair committee of their children's bilingual school in Los Angeles

when they noticed the spotty Spanish-language selection. They persuaded Mexican publishers to send some titles, set up two tables and quickly sold out. They founded their business five years ago, selling books at other school fairs and then online.

By 2015, they had opened La Libreria, a store in central Los Angeles and nationwide distributor of books from Latin America and Spain. U.S. sales of children's Spanish-language books rose 6 percent over the past year to 1.5 million units, according to NDP BookScan. Overall Spanish-language books jumped 15 percent. But that still represents less than 1 percent of the overall book market in a country with more than 41 million Spanish speakers. Major publishers and distributors have pursued the Spanish-language market for years with mixed results. Some closed or downsized

Spanish-language imprints after sales fell short of expectations during the Great Recession, and as the industry struggled to adjust to the Amazon era that squeezed traditional booksellers.

In an internet-driven age of fractured consumer markets, Jaramillo and Santamaria Wolf said strategic partnerships have been key, particularly with brands and retailers like Target, which considers Hispanic mothers a key customer base.

Pam Kaufman, president of global consumer products at Viacom/Nickelodeon, said the company had

been looking for a baby brand when she was introduced to Canticos at an industry conference. When she showed the videos to her Hispanic colleagues, some teared up.

"I thought, OK, we have something here," Kaufman said. "We are excited about it because it is authentic."

Nickelodeon, which also added a Spanish-language hub to its video subscription service NOGGIN in the spring, is planning a line of Canticos toys, clothing and decor for next year.

With sales picking up, major players in the traditional book industry are expanding their Spanish-language business. HarperCollins launched a new Spanish-language division in 2015.

Chicago-based distributor IPG, already a key distributor of Spanish-language books, added two publishers from Spain and one from Mexico to its list in November.

Arroyo and Navarette, owners of La Libreria, said the rise of dual-language programs in schools is driving interest in children's books originally written in Spanish.

The trouble is keeping up with demand. Latin American and Spanish publishers tend to have printing cycles that are too slow and small for the U.S. consumer market. Often, by the time a school orders a title, the books will have sold out in the original country, Arroyo

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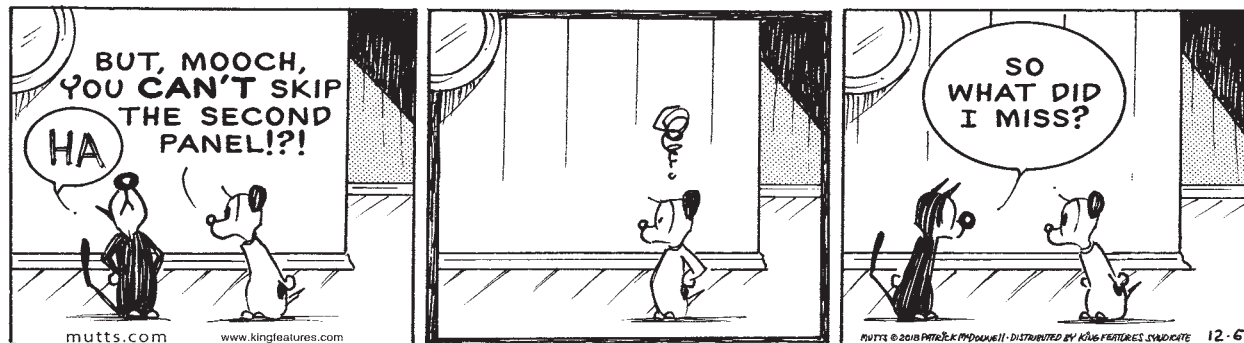
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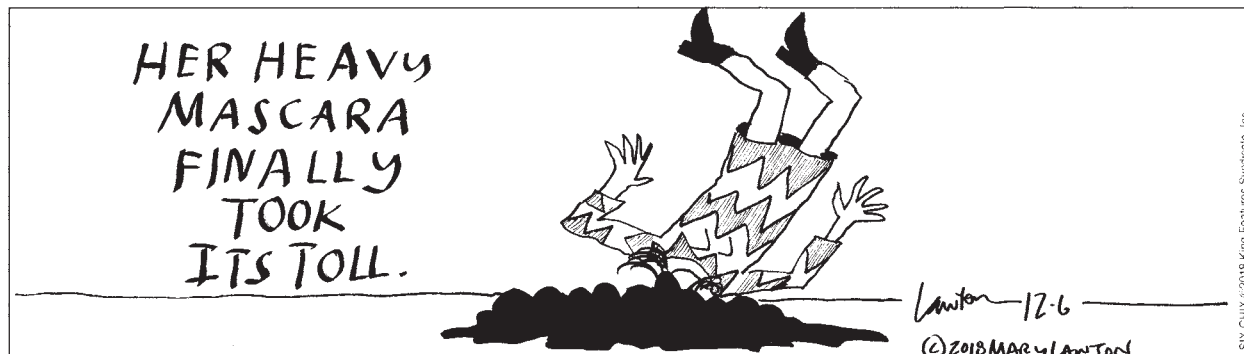
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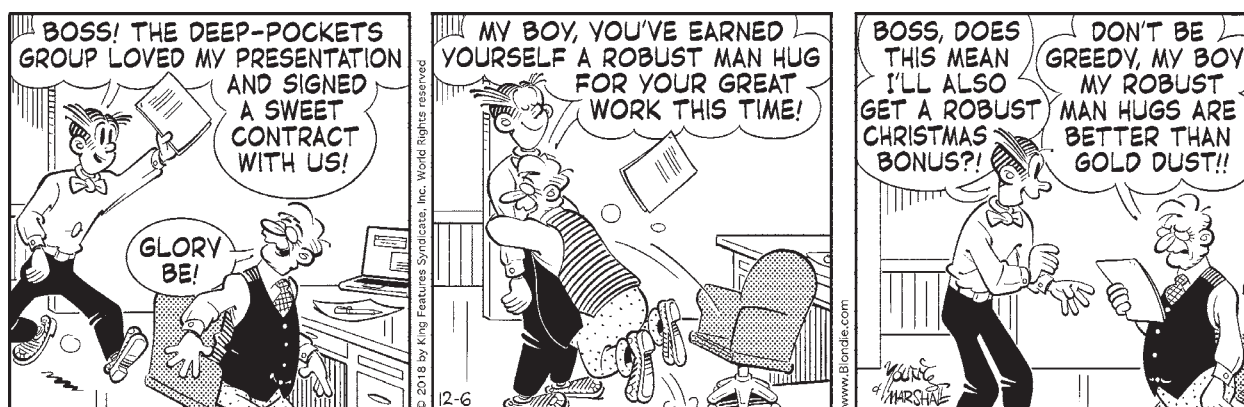
## Mutts



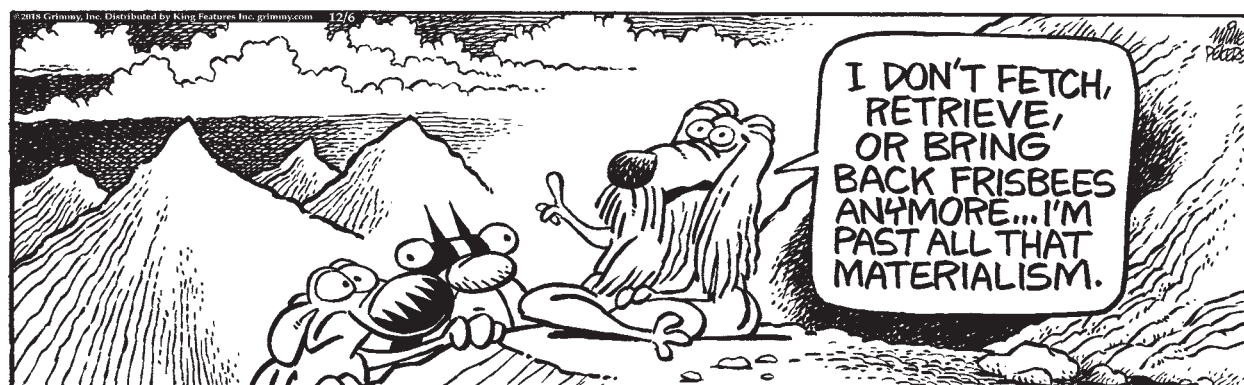
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



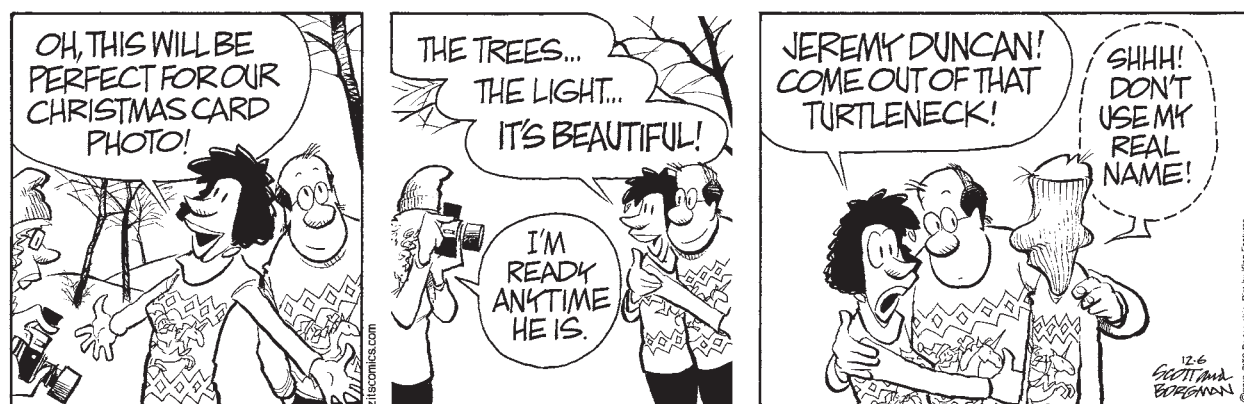
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

1			6				7	
				5		3		9
			4		8		5	
7		1		8		5		
	2						8	
		6		9		7		4
	7		3		6			
4		9		1				
	1				7			8

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

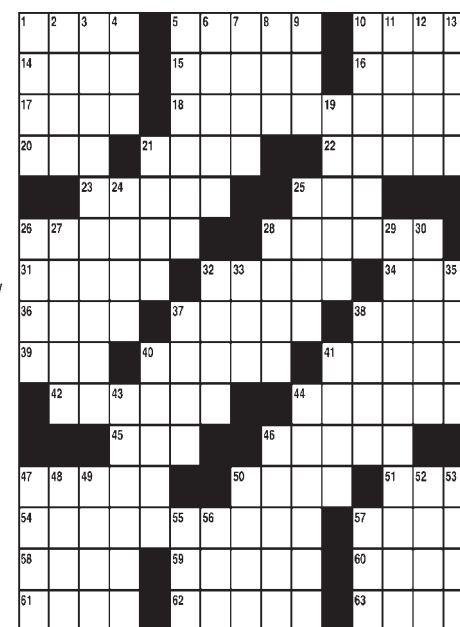
4	1	8	9	7	5	3	6	2
3	9	2	6	8	1	7	4	5
6	7	5	2	4	3	8	9	1
9	5	6	8	2	7	4	1	3
8	4	7	1	3	9	5	2	6
1	2	3	4	5	6	9	7	8
2	8	9	3	6	4	1	5	7
7	3	1	5	9	2	6	8	4
5	6	4	7	1	8	2	3	9

## ACROSS

- Lasso
- Wayans
- Word in some high school names
- Singles
- Actress Durance
- Outdoor feast
- the fool; behaves stupidly
- Timid mama's boy
- Encountered
- Gigantic
- at; alludes to
- Up in arms
- Summer cooler
- Soothe; make peaceful
- Long-time host of "The Tonight Show"
- In the air
- Neckwear
- 11/11 honoree
- Bench board
- Ice skate's feature
- Uncovered
- Command to Fido
- Rowing teams
- Soothing ointment
- Shun
- Bugs
- Lay down the give orders
- Short-lived
- Despise
- Cry
- To and
- Hairdresser
- "The Piper of Hamelin"
- Come to shore
- cotta; patio
- Like eclairs
- Nervous
- Grains planted
- Kennedy & Cruz

## DOWN

- Meander
- In the past



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/6/18

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ALPS	PANS	TYPO
CARES	LIFT	HEAP
TREAT	ALLEVIATE	
SAM	ALI	WARREN
ARMED	ALS	
SCRAPS	BRUTAL	
CHIPS	PRATE	CEE
ARTS	REINS	BRAY
MIA	SOAPS	CLOVE
SLANTS	GROPED	
BAA	DOUGH	
ABRUPT	UPS	OAT
BRASSIERE	TABLE	
LANE	NAIL	SLIMS
EGGS	GUMS	LAST

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12/6/18

- Source of woe
- Diagram
- Make a tiny cut
- Weather forecast
- Stadiums
- Facial hair
- Up to the task
- Rosary piece
- "...in there"; encouraging phrase
- Telegram
- Donna of old TV
- Chances
- "... a Small World"
- Average grade
- Peach stone



## Good boy: Sully the service dog visits Bush's casket



Sully, former President George H.W. Bush's service dog, pays his respect to President Bush as he lies in state at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

By LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — It's often said that if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.

For the last six months, Sully the service dog was President George H.W. Bush's. The yellow Labrador Retriever visited the president's casket in the Capitol Rotunda Tuesday alongside people in wheelchairs who benefited from the Americans With Disabilities Act that Bush signed in 1990. John Miller, the president and CEO of America's VetDogs, said the Bush family contacted Walter Reed National Military Medical Center after the late president's wife of 73 years, Barbara, died in April. America's VetDogs chose Sully in part for his calm temperament.

"After Mrs. Bush's death, general companionship was a big part of Sully's job," Miller said in a phone interview. "One of the things that I think was important to the president was the rest command, where Sully would rest his head on the president's lap."

Sully is 2 years old. He was named for retired airline pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III, who became famous for landing a damaged passenger jet on the Hudson River in 2009, saving everyone aboard. □



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Caribbean Princess

December 8

Zuiderdam

Norwegian Dawn

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Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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# New parasite decimates giant clam species in Mediterranean

By ELENA BECATOROS  
Associated Press  
ANAVYSSOS, Greece (AP)

— With rapid efficiency, a mysterious parasite is seeking out and killing a giant species of clam found only in the Mediterranean Sea. Unless scientists can find a way of stopping it soon, they say the mollusk could go extinct.

For thousands of years, the emblematic noble pen shell has been intrinsically connected to human civilization. The largest bivalve in the Mediterranean can grow to more than a meter (three feet) long and has provided food and one of the world's rarest materials: sea silk spun from fibers it uses to secure itself to the seabed. The mollusk also contributes to clear water by filtering out organic particulates.

The pen shell, *Pinna nobilis*, has been on the European Union's protected species list for decades because of overfishing, pollution and the destruction of its natural habitat, meaning any fishing is banned. But the ban is often poorly enforced, with the animal harvested for food or for its shell, which is used for decorative purposes.

The pen shells, which have a life span of several decades and take years to reach reproductive age, were already dying faster than they could be replaced. So the spread of the microscopic parasite, which first appeared in the western Mediterranean in late 2016 and was identified just this year as a new species, has alarmed experts.

Exactly how the parasite kills isn't completely clear, although scientists have found it attacks the pen shell's digestive system. The



In this Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008 underwater photo, pen shells stand on the seabed in the Aegean Sea.

Associated Press

infected animal is also unable to close its shell, incapacitating its defense against predators. Once infected, death is almost certain.

"In less than a year it wiped out (the pen shell population of) the Spanish coast," said Maria del Mar Otero of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Soon parts of France, Malta, Tunisia and Italy were affected. In recent weeks, tests confirmed the same parasite, *Haplosporidium pinnae*, is responsible for pen shell die-offs in parts of Greece, and researchers have reported mass mortality as far east as Turkey and Cyprus.

Scientists are now racing to understand how the parasite spreads and its life cycle — essential information for a successful rescue program. One theory is that it could be spreading through phytoplankton,

the bivalve's food source, but nobody knows for certain.

"We cannot be sure of anything at this point," said Pantelis Katharios, senior researcher at the Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture of the Hellenic Center for Marine Research, or HCMR.

"What we know now is that the Pinnas are dying, that the cause is this parasite, and we know that it's spreading very, very rapidly," he said. "And that is going to be a huge problem (for) the ecology and the balance of the ecosystem in the Mediterranean."

Yiannis Issaris, marine ecologist at the HCMR's Institute of Oceanography, initially noticed widespread pen shell death off the coast of Anavyssos, southeast of Athens, in mid-summer. He suspected the culprit could be the same one causing mortality in Spain — and

testing proved him right.

Now the question is how to tackle the outbreak.

"This is very fresh for the scientific community," Issaris said. "We're still at the stage of recording where it has spread to."

Some parts of Greece still have healthy populations of the mollusks, he noted, whereas in other areas they have been wiped out.

Protecting the pen shell in its natural habitat — sandy seabeds or seagrass meadows — appears "difficult to impossible," Issaris said, particularly without knowing how the parasite spreads. In Spain, some healthy individuals were moved to aquariums.

Although tests are pending in some Mediterranean countries witnessing mass die-offs, experts have little doubt what the results will show.

"It's very, very, very likely" to be the same parasite,

Otero said. "There's almost no question."

One thing's clear: the parasite is very particular in its choice of victim. A smaller, related species, the *Pinna rudis*, which also exists outside the Mediterranean, is unaffected.

"We don't know how it has appeared in the Mediterranean... We only know that it causes mortality only in the *Pinna nobilis*," Issaris said.

In the clear, shallow waters south of the Greek capital, dozens of dead pen shells lie scattered in a seagrass meadow, testament to the devastation.

Peering through a microscope at the tissue of an infected individual in his office in Crete, Katharios points out the culprit: small, oval-shaped parasites spread throughout the sample.

Scientists are puzzling over why an organism would be so lethal to the very species it depends on for its own survival.

"Normally parasites in nature do not have any benefit from harming the host, because they depend on the host," Katharios explained. "But once in a while we may come across incidents like this, where we have massive mortalities."

This could just be a natural phenomenon in which the parasite will eventually be wiped out along with its host, he said. Another possibility is that it originated in a different species and for some reason jumped to the pen shell. A third is that the pen shell's immune system has been compromised by factors such as pollution, climate change or water temperature fluctuations.

"It's extremely, extremely difficult to find the truth at this stage," Katharios said. □

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## Ralph Fiennes, Sophie Okonedo spar in 'Antony and Cleopatra'

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — "Antony and Cleopatra," currently running at London's National Theatre, has tragic romance, two top-flight actors and a live snake. No wonder it's a hit.

Sophie Okonedo and Ralph Fiennes play the lovers sundered by war and empire in William Shakespeare's tragedy, which is being broadcast live to movie theaters in Britain and internationally on Thursday as part of the NT Live series.

Okonedo and Fiennes won acting trophies at last month's Evening Standard Theatre Awards for the roles, immortalized on-screen by Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, and memorably played on-stage in the 1980s by Anthony Hopkins and Judi Dench.

Fiennes says one reason the play endures is that the characters of the Roman military hero and the Egyptian queen are — strange as it seems — so relatable. "We can relate to the messiness of the relation-



In this undated photo released by The National Theatre, a scene from the London National Theatre production of *Antony & Cleopatra* starring Ralph Finnes, top, and Sophie Okonedo, starring as the lovers rocked by war and empire.

Associated Press

ship," Fiennes told The Associated Press. "They're not young lovers. They're mature. They've both got baggage."

Fiennes is an old hand at Shakespeare who won a Tony Award for playing "Hamlet" and directed a film version of "Coriolanus."

He says the play's power comes from the combination of Shakespeare's "poetic, epic" language and "two very fallible people."

"He's not an idealized warrior and she's not an idealized princess," the actor said. "They're full of temperament and tantrums and

mood swings, and I think that combination is very moving to people."

The production reunites Fiennes with director Simon Godwin, who directed him in George Bernard Shaw's "Man and Superman" at the National Theatre in 2015.

It's his first time working with

"Hotel Rwanda" star Okonedo, and he praises her "rawness" and emotional range as the besotted queen.

Cleopatra is the play's glamour part, Antony a more muted starring role. Reviewers have called Okonedo fiery, funny, regal and playful, while Fiennes has been praised for playing Antony as a "creaky" figure in "tragic decline."

His Antony is a hedonistic hero — repeatedly drawn back from duty in Rome to Cleopatra's lush Alexandrian retreat — who is reluctant to admit that his best days are behind him.

"He's a man who's trying not to be past his peak," Fiennes said. "You feel he's someone who is letting himself go in Egypt. Enjoying himself, but he's let his responsibilities go."

The play's climax — Cleopatra's suicide by asp — is staged with a real snake. Fiennes says cast and crew ensure that the reptiles — there are four who alternate in the role — are "very well looked after." □

## Karl Lagerfeld brings Chanel to ancient Egypt, at Met show

By JOCELYN NOVECK  
Associated Press

An air of ancient Egyptian luxury ruled the night as Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld brought his traveling fashion show to New York and its famous Temple of Dendur at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Lagerfeld chose the venue for his 17th annual "Metiers d'Art" show, which takes place in a different city each year and celebrates the craftsmanship of the artisans that partner with Chanel.

The imposing temple, completed in about 10 B.C., is a highlight of the Met's collection and a favorite site of the museum's annual spring fashion gala. Indeed, the Chanel show felt like a mini-Met Gala with celebrity guests including actresses Penelope Cruz, Julianne Moore, Margot Robbie, Marion Cotillard

and Lily-Rose Depp, comedian Jerry Seinfeld, and director Sofia Coppola.

A celebrity even walked the runway: Pharrell Williams, who recently announced a collaboration with Chanel. Arriving to

a few whoops from the crowd, the singer wore a very Egyptian-looking gold mesh top adorned with designs resembling a wide, jeweled Egyptian necklace, and shiny gold pants. Gold shimmered all over

the runway, as models strolled past the floodlit temple in everything from gold thigh-high boots to gold brimmed hats to glistening dresses with golden feather adornments, to shoulder-length gold ear-

rings. There was also some distressed denim, and definitely some tweed, but shiny gold was the order of the day.

One particularly stunning shoulderless gown looked like an Egyptian mosaic, with interlocking "tiles" in the Egyptian color palette of light and dark blues, red, and of course, gold.

The handiwork involved in the garments was displayed in brief videos posted by Chanel on Instagram ahead of the show, from artisans' ateliers, or workshops: metalwork and jewelry-making from Goossens, pleating from Lognon, feather and flower adornments from Lemarie, embroidery from Montex, costume jewelry from Desrues, embroidery and tweed from Lesage, Massaro shoes, and golden Maison Michel hats. □



Models walk the runway at the Chanel Metiers d'Art 2018/19 Show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press



# Film puts a modern spin on 'Mary, Queen of Scots'

By LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

"Mary, Queen of Scots" is an ambitious re-imagining of the Mary Stuart and Elizabeth I saga with modern flourishes and bold performances from Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie. But the film, for all its prestige and edginess, its lofty goals and contemporary messages, is not a particularly engrossing experience.

It's a shame too, because most of the elements are there. The gorgeous costumes and meticulous settings are breathtaking, and they couldn't have chosen two leads better suited to playing these women, with Ronan as Mary and Robbie as Elizabeth. They just don't come together very well, straddling an awkward line between wanting to be both a modern referendum on the real struggles of being a female leader in the 16th century and a "Game of Thrones"-style actioner. Director Josie Rourke, who has a background in theater, certainly has a knack for grandeur and drama.



his image released by Focus Features shows Saoirse Ronan as Mary Stuart in a scene from "Mary Queen of Scots."

But choppy editing and stilted story evolution never really do justice to what should be an epic and suspenseful tale of political machinations and power struggles.

The story itself is fascinating. Mary, a Catholic widowed at 18 from the King of France, returns to Scotland

to rule. She has eyes on England too, which is under the rule of her cousin, Elizabeth I, a Protestant who refuses to marry and produce an heir. A husband, Elizabeth accurately concludes, will just try to take the throne from her. And the men in both of their camps try their best to make a peaceful

relationship between the two countries impossible. But the question of a successor remains and becomes urgent when Mary comes back on the scene and starts making her own claims to the throne. The two rulers correspond and negotiate in an elaborate game of chess in which

everyone is attempting to manipulate an unstable situation. Elizabeth tries to offer up a husband to Mary, in her own lover Robert Dudley (Joe Alwyn), as a strategic ploy. But, Mary, seeing through the plan, weds another Englishman, the charismatic Lord Darnley (Jack Lowden), ensuring that her offspring would have a legitimate claim to the throne.

There are interesting ideas to explore about being a powerful woman in this time. But the script from "House of Cards" creator Beau Willimon seems to oversimplify things. He imagines a relationship that devolves mostly because of Elizabeth's jealousy of Mary's youth, beauty and ability to bear children. This point is hammered over and over, as Elizabeth, hearing that Mary is pregnant, gathers her skirt to just see what she would look like pregnant in silhouette. The birth scene is even more noxious, cutting back and forth from Mary in labor, to poor, sad Elizabeth creating the only thing she can — paper flowers. □

Associated Press

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**DECEMBER 6 - 12**

 <b>CREED 2</b> MICHAEL B. JORDAN   SYLVESTER STALLONE SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES [PG-13] MON-FRI 6:50 SAT-SUN 2:05   6:50 CXC MON-SUN 3:50   6:35   9:20 TTP MON-THU 6:00   8:45 FRI 6:00   8:45   11:30 SAT 3:15   6:00   8:45   11:30 SUN 3:15   6:00   8:45	 <b>Mary Queen of Scots</b> MARGOT ROBBIE   SAOIRSE RONAN MON-SUN 6:30   9:05
 <b>ELLIOT THE LITTLEST REINDEER</b> JOSH HUTCHERSON   MORENA BACCARIN MON-FRI 4:30 SAT-SUN 2:30   4:30	 <b>BACKTRACE</b> SYLVESTER STALLONE   RYAN GUZMAN MON-SUN 4:45
 <b>RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET</b> JOHN C. REILLY   SARAH SILVERMAN WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG] MON-THU 3:50   6:15   8:40 FRI 3:50   6:15   8:40   11:05 SAT 1:15   3:50   6:15   8:40   11:05 SUN 1:15   3:50   6:15   8:40 SPANISH SAT-SUN 2:45	 <b>QUE LEÓN</b> OZUNA   CLARISA MOLINA SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES [PG-13] MON-THU & SUN 7:25   9:30 FRI-SAT 7:25   9:30   11:35 TTP MON-THU 4:20   6:25   8:30 FRI 4:20   6:25   8:30   10:35 SAT 2:15   4:20   6:25   8:30   10:35 SUN 2:15   4:20   6:25   8:30
 <b>ROBIN HOOD</b> TARAN EGERTON   JAMIE FOXX WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13] MON-SUN 5:10	 <b>THE POSSESSION OF HANNAH GRACE</b> SHAY MITCHELL   GREY DAMON WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R] MON-FRI 9:35 SAT-SUN 9:35   11:35
 <b>THE GRINCH</b> BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH   CAMERON SEELEY WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG] MON-FRI 4:50   6:55   9:00 SAT-SUN 2:45   4:50   6:55   9:00 CXC SAT-SUN 1:35	

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## Actor-comedian Kevin Hart will host 2019 Oscars



In this Dec. 11, 2017 file photo, Kevin Hart arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

**Associated Press**  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Kevin Hart has a new job — he will host the 2019 Academy Awards, a role the prolific actor-comedian says fulfills a longtime dream.

Hart announced his selection for the 91st Oscars in an Instagram statement Tuesday. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences followed up with a tweet that welcomed

him "to the family." The announcement came hours after trade publication The Hollywood Reporter posted a story calling the Oscars host position "the least wanted job in Hollywood."

Hart clearly doesn't feel that way, writing on Instagram that it has been on his list of dream jobs for years. The 2019 Oscars will be broadcast Feb. 24 on ABC.

"I am blown away simply because this has been a goal on my list for a long time...To be able to join the legendary list of host that have graced this stage is unbelievable," Hart wrote. "I know my mom is smiling from ear to ear right now. "I will be sure to make sure this years Oscars are a special one," Hart wrote. □



# Hugh Jackman, the pop star, readies massive world tour

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Hugh Jackman is set to launch a pop star-like tour next year, but he's done his research: He's been to a Beyonce concert. A Justin Timberlake concert. AND A MICHAEL JACKSON CONCERT.

"I've seen some of the greats," Jackman said in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday. "And the great performers for me are the ones who can connect with the person in the back and in the front. And I'll sometimes sit in the back 'cause I wanna know am I feeling it back here? 'Cause I'm from the theater, (so) for me everything I do has to connect to every single person."

The regular concert attendee is hoping to make some strong connections with fans when he launches his first world tour — dubbed "The Man. The Music. The Show." — next year. Accompanied by a live orchestra, he will perform songs from "The Greatest Showman," "Les Miserables" and Broadway musicals, among other selections.

"I've always felt strangely at home on a stage, no matter how big the stage is — sometimes even more than in life," said the actor, known for roles like Wolver-



Actor and singer Hugh Jackman performs on NBC's "Today" show at Rockefeller Plaza on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

ine. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think when I turned 50 I would be playing Madison Square Garden or the Hollywood Bowl." Jackman, who was born in Australia, did an arena tour there three years ago, but he didn't think he could replicate the success outside his native home.

"I had no idea really what the demand is for me. It's not like I measure it or I ask. I always underplay it," he said. "At that time three years ago I remember thinking, 'I'd really love to do this around the world.' And my agent in L.A. goes,

"I'd leave it in Australia, dude."

But then came "The Greatest Showman" — a game changer for Jackman's music career. The 2017 film was a box-office powerhouse, but so was — and still is — its soundtrack: The album has reached multi-platinum status and is one of the year's top albums, matching the success of any major rap, pop or rock album. It came in fourth on Billboard's list of top albums for the year and also made Apple Music's year-end Top 10 list.

"The opportunity to go

around the world ... I probably wouldn't have had it if it wasn't for 'The Greatest Showman.' That tipped me over," Jackman said.

"The Greatest Showman" has come a long way: Jackman remembers how the movie only earned \$8.6 million in its first week around the time the soundtrack debuted at No. 71 on the Billboard charts.

"When we opened, when I saw I didn't get an email, normally you'll get a consolation email from your friends, the studios; it was like crickets, like nothing. That's how bad it was," he

said. "We worked eight years on it ... and I always want to remind people the studio took a big risk on it. It wasn't cheap."

Jackman will kick off his tour in Hamburg, Germany, on May 13. He will play two shows at The O2 Arena in London, where the album has had even more success than America: The album has spent 48 of 49 weeks in the Top 10 on the U.K. charts, including 21 weeks at No. 1. And it's currently No. 4 on the charts, a year after its release.

The North American leg begins June 18 in Houston. Most tickets go on sale Friday; tickets for the MSG shows go on sale Dec. 10.

Jackman hopes to also perform original music on the tour, and he recalls working on an album when he was signed to a record label over a decade ago when he starred in Broadway's "The Boy from Oz," for which he won a Tony in 2004.

"I had a deal at the time and I hated what I did. It had nothing to do with anyone involved, I had amazing people involved, but at that point I didn't know what I wanted to say," he said. "Whether you're a recording artist or a writer or actor, you've got to feel like you have something to say." □

## 'Hearts of the Missing' is a baffling mystery

By BRUCE DESILVA

Associated Press

"Hearts of the Missing" (Minotaur), by Carol Potenza Nicky Matthews, a Pueblo, New Mexico, police sergeant assigned as liaison to the Tsiba'ashi D'yini reservation's police department, has a few things going for her. She's smart and tenacious. She respects, and has gained the respect of, the native people. And she has so internalized their culture that she's visited by ghosts who provide warnings and premonitions. But she also has some things going against her. The reservation's police chief, who thinks a wom-

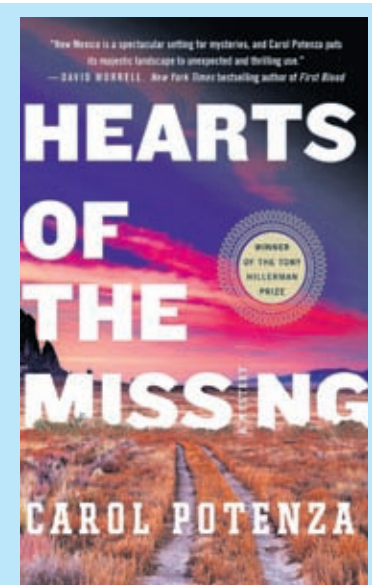
an's place doesn't include police work, undermines her at every turn. And her long-ago affair with an influential married man, is a constant source of trouble. When Nicky suspects that an apparent suicide could be murder — and might be linked to a series of violent deaths and missing persons — her investigation is obstructed by her bosses and the elders who run the reservation.

"Hearts of the Missing," Carol Potenza's debut novel, is a yarn wrapped in Pueblo Indian mythology, forensic evidence, ancient rituals, DNA tests, evil spirits, greed and violence. The story in-

volves so many characters and such a plethora of twists and turns that readers may find it difficult to keep track unless they pay close attention — and maybe even take notes along the way.

The author, a biochemistry professor at New Mexico State University, is the pre-publication winner of the annual Hillerman Prize for the best novel set in the Southwest. However, her prose, while better than workmanlike, falls short of the simple elegance of the late Tony Hillerman's 18 novels about the exploits of a pair of Navajo police officers.

Potenza does a decent job of evoking the reservation's stark natural landscape, but she peppers her narrative with granular, often irrelevant, physical descriptions of her characters, including many minor ones. And when they speak, nearly all of her characters sound alike regardless of age, gender and ethnicity. Still, the baffling mystery and the frequent surprises along the way will reward readers who stick with this story to the end. All in all, "Hearts of the Missing" demonstrates enough promise to justify Potenza's plan for a series of Nicky Matthews novels. □



This cover image released by Minotaur shows "Hearts of the Missing," a mystery by Carol Potenza.

Associated Press



# In Brazil backlands, termites built millions of dirt mounds

By VICTOR CAIVANO

PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press

PALMEIRAS, Brazil (AP) —

Roy Funch, an American botanist who has lived and worked in Brazil's hard-scrabble northeast for decades, long looked at huge cone-shaped mounds of mud in the distance and wondered.

What built them? How many were there? How long had they been there? After years of failing to generate interest in the mounds, a chance meeting with an English expert on social insects, Stephen Martin, led to remarkable discoveries: There are over 200 million mounds built by termites that stretch across 88,800 square miles (230,000 square kilometers), about the size of Great Britain.

What's more, some of the dirt heaps are nearly 4,000 years old.

"While the Romans were building their columns, their buildings, these termites were building their mounds," Funch said, adding that the dirt piles represent the largest bioconstruction of any species other than humans.

The mounds, seen in various places in a vast desert-like region called the Caatinga, stand between 6 and 13 feet (2 to 4 meters) high and are spaced roughly equally apart — between 52 and 72 feet (16 to 22 meters).

To landowners who clear brush to plant crops, the mounds are a nuisance. Bulldozing them is difficult



A soldier termite with large pincers stands guard while smaller worker termites gather dead leaves and cut them into pieces near Lencois, Brazil, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018.

Associated Press

because over years of being baked in the hot sun, the already-hard dirt and clay become like stone. Poor people in the area use chunks of the mounds to build adobe houses.

Funch says he wrote two articles about the mounds in Brazilian publications, but they didn't draw any attention. Without expertise in insects or the world of scientific publishing, he wasn't sure how to take his research to the next level. Asking local people didn't help.

"Some would say they are termites, some would say ants, some would say: 'Well, they have always been there. They are part of nature,'" Funch said.

Enter Martin, an entomologist at the University of

Salford in England. A few years ago, Martin was in northeastern Brazil studying honey bees and ants in the state of Bahia. He, too, was curious about the mounds. "I was intrigued because of their patterns," he said.

By chance, Martin and Funch met next to a river in Lencois, a small town in Bahia about 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of the edge of the mound area.

When Martin mentioned seeing the mounds while he was driving around, Funch told him: "You just met the only guy in Brazil who is working on these mounds."

The two teamed up, and their research was published Nov. 19 in *Current Biology*.

The pair concluded the mounds were built by *Syntermes dirus*, a large termite species that feeds on leaves and lives underground. While the termites are found in the region, the researchers didn't find them actively working in the larger mounds, but instead along the edges of areas with mounds.

Cutting into several mounds, they found only a small tube-like hole going to the top of each one, not an extensive pattern of tunnels throughout. That suggested the termites were simply finding a place to

chunk earth from underground, where they build their tunnels.

"These are just waste heaps," said Martin. "Under normal circumstances we wouldn't see them because they wouldn't persist for such a long time."

In more humid areas where the same species lives, such as the Amazon, the mounds are eroded by rain and wind. But the Caatinga ecoregion gets rainfall only a few weeks a year. The desert shrubland vegetation covers and camouflages the mounds in large swaths of the area, one of the reasons they were essentially hiding in plain sight.

Funch said improvements in Google Earth's imaging in recent years helped them understand the ex-

tent of the formations via spatial mapping.

"The mounds go on forever in every direction," said Funch, who initially came to Brazil as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1977 and stayed. The mounds are also very old. Radioactive testing determined they ranged in age from 690 to 3,820 years.

"It could have been a giant termite (that built the mounds)," joked Luciano Oliveira, a local who lives in a house made with earth taken from a mound. "Nobody knows."

While many people view termites as pests because some species eat wood, and thus homes, the social insects are also some of the world's best engineers, building vast networks of underground tunnels and huge heaps of dirt.

An Associated Press journalist who accompanied Funch to watch the nocturnal termites at work saw soldier termites about a half-inch long and with large pincers stand guard while smaller workers gathered dead leaves and cut them in smaller pieces, making "click, click, click" sounds as they worked. When a flashlight was shined on the termites for a few seconds, they scurried down small holes.

Rob Pringle, a Princeton biology professor who has studied termites and their mounds in Kenya, Mozambique and Namibia, said fighting between termite colonies can lead to patterns in the mounds they produce. □



Giant termite mounds cover a field near Palmeiras, Brazil, Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018.

Associated Press



American botanist Roy Funch sits on top of a giant termite mound near Palmeiras, Brazil, Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018.

Associated Press